



Dared and Confused

Adara O'Hare

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Jackson Conroy and his friends have been playing “Truth or Dare?” together for years— long enough to know exactly how the game is going to go every time they get together, much to Jackson’s chagrin. As the group has gotten older and gone off to college, the games have become fewer and further between. Now with graduation looming just around the corner, the group decides to get together over their final Spring Break to play a few more rounds while they still can.

The game starts no differently than any other they’ve played for the past several years, but this time Jackson’s best friend takes an opportunity to corner him into kissing Chet Montgomery. Chet makes good on the dare to kiss Jackson without any hesitation. But it’s when the kiss ends that Jackson’s confusion begins.

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.

Dear Author,

It started with too many shots of Jack and a game of “Truth or Dare?”. It was only supposed to be a quick kiss. I’ve never kissed another guy before. So why did I find myself back in his arms, lost in his brown eyes the next night? And why does the thought of never kissing him again make me feel like I would be missing out on the hottest thing in my life?

Photo Description:

A photo of two cowboys in their early twenties kissing in a barn. One man wears a maroon-and-white gingham shirt and a black Stetson, and the other a blue-and-white gingham shirt and a straw-colored Stetson.

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.

Dared and Confused Details

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From Reader Review Dared and Confused for online ebook

Regencyfan93 says

There was a lot of Texas(?) dialect.

Linda ~ chock full of hoot, just a little bit of nanny ~ says

This was sometimes weird, mostly sweet friends-to-lovers short story.

The sweet: Jackson has never been attracted to or interested in anyone, male or female, until his best friend Chet kisses him on a dare during a truth and dare game. And suddenly it's fireworks and Jackson realizes there are things about himself he didn't know that he didn't know. Watching him trying to sort out his confusion and figuring out he's gay was a treat.

Chet was super patient and supportive, and he's clearly been in love with Jackson for years but never said anything so as not to pressure him. There was lots of good tension leading up to the sex scene, which thankfully wasn't too long. Still, I was starting to lose interest by the time it finished.

Jackson's mom was a pure delight, y'all. She was like Christmas in July. :D

The weird: Why would Jackson's dad be so opposed to him wanting to be a veterinarian? You need those on ranches. Just find someone else to run the ranch, geez.

I also didn't care much for the hyper-sexualized truth and dare game at the beginning. There is such a thing as being *too* close to your friends, lol. I did like how it was used later though; it was a nice little callback.

Oh, then there's the Texas-speak that's all over this book like burrs in a billy goat's hide. Darn tootin! :P You can either read it or it'll drive you up the wall, lol.

K says

Contemporary western short story

Jackson has just graduated college and is taking part in a game of Truth and Dare with his childhood friends - including Chet, who is a hand on Jackson's parents ranch and three years older than Jackson. Jackson has always answered "truth" to the questions, but when Chet says dare, the dare is to kiss Jackson, 15 seconds, with tongue. The kiss stirs up unexpected feelings in Jackson, who has never sexually felt anything for anyone. The day after and his head's all over the place, he argues with his father and eventually leaves the ranch for the evening with Chet - who he talks to about his feelings. Determining that Jackson is a Grey-A in terms of his sexuality - with feelings for Chet which he finds are returned the pair start their relationship. Jackson's mother is wonderfully supportive, his dad not so much. The story ends as it starts, with another game of Truth and Dare - but I'd say that this is only a HFN ending as we really only see the very beginning of the relationship. As ever from this author a very well written story, complete with very broad character accents

Liza says

Ahhhh.... My hot country boys!! I loved it! Thank you so much, Adara. It was everything I was hoping for!

Sandra says

Offered for FREE from the M/M Romance Group's Love Is An Open Road event. Thank you too all the amazing authors who participated!

GlamLawyer says

3.5 stars rounded up

Jackson didn't ever feel sexual attraction towards anyone. Feeling aroused by a dared kiss from his male friend Chat leaves him confused and scared.

An interesting take on friends to lovers with slow burn and the theme of being asexual. There were some point in the story that fell a bit flat but all in all I really liked it.

R * A Reader Obsessed * says

So yes, a kiss on a dare suddenly opens Jackson's eyes. He really had no clue, nor cared, about his lack of sexual interest in all things. Now he can't stop thinking about his best friend, Chet.

This was another sweet story about awakenings and realizations. Quite hot in some parts, and though it glosses over the tough issues in its easy resolutions, this was still an enjoyable, feel good short.

Jilrene ♥ says

Coming of age and figuring things out. This is the second Love Is An Open Road book with an Ace character. I like that. Add in a couple cowboys and really good friends, you have a fun short story.

Kristan says

3.5 stars

No one has ever caught Jackson "Jacks" Conroy's eye. He's seen men and women naked, even kissed a girl or two, but nothing has ever given him that spark of interest. That's about to change during a game of Truth or

Dare. He always plays it safe; only ever choosing Truth, but it's a Dare for another member of the group that is going to change his whole world on its head.

This story includes:

Sexy college aged cowboys.

A supportive family and secondary characters.

Great chemistry between the two MCs.

An asexual-grey sexual MC (this was handled amazingly).

And a sweet and shy main character.

I could have done without the oversexualized Truth or Dare games. I didn't really enjoy all the free love going around, but everything else was great. I would have loved to have been in Chet's head (so I could get the deep longing he felt towards Jackson) as well as Jackson's POV, but spending time with the endearingly sweet Jackson wasn't a hardship at all.

A really sweet read that left me wanting more.

My thanks to the author for their participation in the Love is an Open Road event.

C. says

Pretty good, pretty sexy. Lots of understanding. Awesome characters (Jacks, his amazingly understanding Chet and his proud momma!)

Non-standard sexuality... REPRESENT!

Loved it, specially with the low angst and high on feelings, it was all nicely well done.

PS: I wanna steal Chet for myself

Jenna ~Don't Talk To Me When I'm Reading~ says

Very sweet friends-to-lovers story with some well-done acknowledgement of "non-standard sexualities". I would have liked a little more of Chet's point of view but this is an understandable limitation of a short story. Thanks for the very enjoyable free read!

Adara says

This is my story for the *Don't Read in the Closet: Love is an Open Road* (2015) event in the M/M Romance Group.

When I began writing this story, I didn't initially set out to tell a gray-ace story. It wasn't until Jacks was talking to Gabby in the barn that his confusion really came out of the woodwork. I could have done a lot more with his confusion over not being sexually attracted to his schoolmates, but I didn't want to write a full novel at the time (which it would've turned into had I gone there). Instead, I believe that Jackson dealt with the vast majority of his confusion in his teen years, and it only comes out now every so often.

I am sure that others will say he presents as more demisexual than gray-ace, to which I would agree that may be true, but he himself doesn't recognize it as such yet. Maybe in time he will change from thinking he's gray-ace to demisexual. Maybe not. That's really his call and not anyone else's.

I hope you enjoy this short story. I had a lot of fun writing it.

Dan says

One of the all time best...loved it!

Jay Clark says

A simple game of truth or dare turns into the love of a life time. Great story with fun characters, and entirely believable situations. The various support characters are all well-developed, while Jackson and Chet are very sexy and yet easy to identify with. Dared and Confused is one of my favorites for this year's Love is an Open Road event. If you read just one story from this event, this is that story to read.

Justin says

3.5 stars

I really enjoyed this sweet story. I think I would have liked it even more if it wasn't for the over-the-top cowboy/Texan(?) speak. It was distracting and pulled me out of the story.

"Sides... ya already knew I's a whore before ya met me."

"Yeah. I's on my way over to ask if we could take off, an' he ambushed me."

^^Aside from this type of slang^^ it was a lovely story.

Thank you to the author and the volunteers who make this event possible.

And thank you, Lori, for the rec.!
