



Tortoise Interruptus

J.L. Merrow

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Cursed by an impatient witch to turn into a tortoise at inopportune moments, Tip is horrified to find himself tortoise-napped by a customer at the cafe where he works.

Things start to look up when Tip ends up very literally in the capable hands of drop-dead gorgeous Steve -- but Tip soon begins to wonder just how far he can trust Steve, who turns out to have a close connection with his kidnapper. Tip's attempts at a normal life seem doomed to remain frustrated in more ways than one!

Tortoise Interruptus Details

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From Reader Review Tortoise Interruptus for online ebook

Lil' Grogan says

Tip in tortoise form was a lot more entertaining than in human form. Middle portion of story felt bland. Not enough plot or characterization (except for Tip). Cute concept, a few laughs, but no substance.

Nikyta *Miss Forgetful* says

This one was super cute. I really loved it. It's short and sweet and funny. Just thinking about Tip shifting into a tortoise should give you a good clue on how cute this must be. I mean, a tortoise, really? I loved the fact that it was a different shifter than the usual ones and with a curse to boot! Of course, the story was made even better when Tip was kidnapped as a tortoise and the witch's nephew that cursed Tip enters the picture. Definitely recommended if you are looking for something to cheer you up after an emotional read. ;-P

Heather C says

This was soooo laugh-out-loud funny!

Poor little Tip gets cursed by a looney witch and frequently/unexpectedly shapeshifts into a tortoise. Not only that, then he gets tortoise-napped by another looney witch!! Luckily, hunky non-witch Steve is there to rescue him.

This was a really cute story and will take less than an hour to read!!

Here are a few funny quotes:

"Please don't eat me! Eat my sister, she's *much*fatter than I am!"

"And okay, Steve *had* just asked him out for lunch, but Tip had found to his chagrin that wanting lunch with a bloke and wanting rampant mansex with him were two very different things. The fact that he was wearing this guy's clothes would probably make it worse...

"He barely retained enough presence of mind not to hump Steve's leg like a randy Jack Russell, especially when he felt Steve's erection boring into his belly like it was drilling for oil.

""Um, you know how your Aunty June's a witch? And your Aunty May, too? So does that mean you're a, a man-witch?" Steve grinned. "You make me sound like a particularly meaty baguette—*it's not just a sandwich, it's a man-wich.*"

Becca Waldrop says

This little story was so cute but do I feel sorry for Tip. Bless his heart. He gets cursed and everyone seems to think it's funny. He can't seem to catch a break. At least his curse is something cute

Mara Ismine says

How could I resist a title like that? Or a tortoise shapeshifter?

It was well worth reading. Very funny and entertaining. I'm hoping for more about them - there are important questions to be answered. Does Tip hibernate in either form? Will they get past the second part of the very apt title?

Ami says

Adorable is the perfect word to describe this short story. From the idea of tortoise-shifter (I know, it's uncommon, but you cannot deny that tortoise is an adorable pet :p) to tortoise-napping to the need of having normal relationship (as normal as a tortoise-shifter can!) just screams adorable for me.

I must say that I tip (no pun intended!) my head of to Tip, he manages to deal with his curse pretty well. Considering the animal that he is forced to shift to; he doesn't become suicidal or revengeful to the witch *hugs Tip*. I genuinely hope that Tip and Steve will find a way to GO all the way and be happily ever after ...

Camille Adams says

A silly, insubstantial fairy tale complete with witches and a perfect cardboard cut-out Prince Charming.

Bubbles Huntly Honest & Direct Opinions says

I just loved this one, it was adorable

Donna says

Deena said it best... *First time I've ever been disappointed by a Merrow story. It was fine, until the end. I hated the end.*

Cryselle says

Sweet and funny -- the title alone made me giggle, and poor Tip's adventures ping-pong from silly to sillier. Anyone who becomes a tortoise at irregular intervals and for unknown lengths of time is going to burn out his ability to blush -- or wish he could. From musings on the sensation of switching form, which Tip fears makes him look foolish, to the hazards faced by the suddenly six-inch tall, mute, and unable to jump, this story made me laugh out loud every few paragraphs.

Vertical space has a different meaning to the suddenly be-carapaced -- Tip gets shoved into a handbag willy-nilly, faced with the equally awful prospects of changing back with only a coin purse for a possible fig-leaf, or not changing back, to be carried miles from his home, clothing, and only semi-sympathetic family. Fortunately, Tip encounters Steve, with similar reading tastes and a certain empathy for Tip's plight, and perfectly gorgeous to boot.

Long on humor, perfect on romance, this short story is a lovely pick-me-up for a sour mood. If Steve and Tip get further adventures, I want to be first in line.

Katharina says

Alright, so that was... ok, I guess. It was a pretty silly and fun idea which is cool. A tortoise-shapeshifter - I just had to read this! The story itself, though, was not really my cup of tea. I usually love J.L. Merrow stories, so I was disappointed by this one.

I love good, light-hearted, funny stories, but Tortoise Interruptus just felt substance-less to me and I couldn't make myself like the characters at all. So there was this hot guy Steve who kind of annoyed me, because he didn't seem to take Tip seriously at all. And what was it with that line at the end? Are you serious? Tip on the other hand just seemed like a big pushover. Not to talk about the rest of the rather annoying cast, starting with Mrs. Helpful over to Janey ending with Auntie June.

Thanks to J.L. Merrow's writing style it wasn't a total waste of time and money but I'm afraid I'd rather recommend not reading it.

Kassa says

I adore JL Merrow's sense of humor and *Tortoise Interruptus* is no different. The story is short, sweet, incredibly witty, and laugh out loud funny in parts. This is a great story for fans of Merrow's as well as though new to the author. This is short enough to satisfy while giving a glimpse of the author's trademark sense of humor. In fact it's rare to read a story of JL Merrow's that isn't quite enjoyable and funny. So TI fits very well with her backlist and is an easy story to recommend.

The plot is pretty basic with a great set up. Tip is a man with a problem – he randomly turns into a turtle with little to no warning. He's been cursed by an impatient witch after lingering in her shop. He also has no way of knowing how long he'll be a turtle each time he turns; it could be minutes or days. This is especially hard on his dating life. That's the last thing on Tip's mind though when he's turtle-napped by an old lady.

The story is very entertaining and humorous from start to finish. It's pretty short, easy to read in one sitting, and sucks you in from the very beginning. Watching and listening to Tip's thoughts as a turtle is pretty funny and there are several laugh out loud moments. Whether it's from being turtle-napped to trying to make it with a hot guy, Tip's life is anything but boring. The writing is very good and filled with a lot of sly references and witty rejoinders. The characters are filled with a sense of humor on their own and you can't help but identify with the cast. They're just adorable and wonderfully depicted.

If there's a slight hitch, it's only that the love interest Steve is a bit too perfect. He seems to be grinning and smiling constantly, which made me wonder what kind of drugs he was on. Tip obviously was into him and they have definite chemistry but I'll admit I wasn't disappointed at the lack of sex scenes. Instead the multiple interruptions worked beautifully and I wouldn't have wanted the story any other way. Not to mention the last line of the story is simply fabulous.

Ulysses Dietz says

Tortoise Interruptus

BY JL Merrow

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Four stars

I am a big Merrow fan, and this was a sweet, wry, clever delight. But, like most short fiction, it left me rather dissatisfied, because the whole idea (an involuntary shape-shifter, cursed by a cranky old witch for irritating her) is amusing and could be spun into a full-length book of adventure and romance.

Tarquin Tiptree (see, only the British have really wonderful bizarre names...and this from someone named Ulysses) is a bit of a type—sweet, small, pretty, almost girlish. It should irritate me, because it's such a trope in m/m fiction. But of course I happen to find sweet, pretty, small men very appealing, so I'm willing to set aside my manly aggressions and just go with it. But I would love to see Tip become a hero in his own right, and to do something with his tortoise curse other than be amusing and helpless. Steve, the big gorgeous masculine guy who "rescues" him (it's a surprisingly convoluted plot for a short story) could stand being taken down a peg or two, and I'd have loved to see Tip do it (in more than one way, because *interruptus* is a key word here).

Merrow is a wonderful writer, and manages to infuse magical elements into her otherwise small-town UK narratives in a way that I find utterly engaging. I look forward to everything she writes.

Meggie says

This short story is funny, I admit, but really to use a characters like this is really no fun for him.

Ann Roberts says

I loved the not-so-common type of shifter that the MC Tip (for his surname Tiptree, not his first name Tarpin--how cute is that?) is in this story. The story is a little slow-moving, but so is Tip in turtle-form, so I found that appropriate! At less than 40 pages, there was plenty of cuteness as well as decent male action with Steve. I would recommend this short story to those who want something a little different.
