



Kiss and Makeup

Shira Anthony

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Dear Author,

Ted is a special effects make-up artist who hopes to win an Oscar for his work on a big budget sci-fi movie. He spends four hours each morning transforming action-hero superstar Lenny Golden into an alien warlord. His greatest achievement would be to transform Lenny into his lover before filming ends.

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

Download the story, read it online or find it in Love Is Always Write: Volume 5.

Kiss and Makeup Details

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From Reader Review Kiss and Makeup for online ebook

Anders says

This was such a sweet story and the sex scenes were real hot. Lenny is a big star, Ted is the makeup guy for a sci fi movie. They meet when Ted is doing Len's makeup and, well, I can't say more without spoiling it. But Ted thinks Len's straight, so he doesn't expect anything to happen. It's an easy read and of course I wish there were more. It has a sweet ending, too.

Nancy says

Posted at Hearts on Fire Reviews

Len Golden is a famous actor. Ted Aaronson is a make-up artist. His latest job is to get Len ready for an upcoming sci-fi movie. Ted knew Len from 10 years before when he was still Lenny Goldberger and only acted in high school plays. Ted was a geek who was positive no one noticed him.

As the two men fall in love with each other, old doubts and insecurities resurface and Ted soon realizes that even famous actors are not always as sure of themselves as they appear to be.

This sweet, erotic and romantic story put a smile on my face.

Sandra says

[image error]

Pamela Su says

Amusing short story about a Hollywood makeup artist and movie star. It was a pretty hot pairing.

I just found it a bit weird to have Len be possibly up for an Oscar for what sounds like a sci-fi movie.

Exina says

Ted is a special effects make-up artist, now the proud recipient of an Oscar nomination. His current work is with the superhot movie star, Lenny Golden. Ted and Lenny first met ten years ago, and though Ted has had a crush on Lenny since then, he would have never expected it to be returned.

A little misunderstanding at the beginning, but otherwise an uncomplicated story. It was okay.

Shira Anthony says

I can't tell you what a blast I had writing this story! I spent some time researching Hollywood makeup techniques before I started writing. So cool. I watched a bunch of episodes of "Face Off," a ton of YouTube vids, and read lots of articles about making prosthetics and even using a straight razor. (Yes, a straight edge razor can be DAMN sexy!) The character of Ted is loosely based on a contestant on "Face Off," - I'll let you guess which one.

Who'd have thought slathering blue silicone goo over a gorgeous, muscled chest would be the inspiration for Ted and Lenny's story! Well, all right, that could be pretty inspirational if it's the right chest and the right hands doing the slathering.

Enjoy! And if you haven't already, be sure to sign up for the M/M Romance Group here on Goodreads - there's nothing else like it on the internet for M/M lovers. Oh, and check out all the other stories while you're there!

Natalija says

Absolutely wonderful, and the plot was new and refreshing! I'll definitely be checking out other books by the author.

Kim Alan says

This was sweet and yummy. I really liked how Lenny remained so boyish and unspoiled despite his huge success.

Bubbles Hunty Honest & Direct Opinions says

[(it skips 13 months at the end) (hide spoiler)]

A Girl Has No Name says

A sweet short read about Ted - a make up artist for movie productions - and Lenny - a famous actor. Ted and Lenny have met several years ago, when Ted was still a shy and withdrawn emo kid. The young make-up artist is sure that Lenny can't remember him, but the moment he sees Lenny again he realizes that he still has the hots for the beautiful actor. Working on his very extravagant make-up, Ted is constantly touching Lenny and he is desperately trying to hide his attraction. Contrary to Ted's beliefs, Lenny can still remember him very well. Kiss and Makeup is a sweet short story about Ted and Lenny falling for each other. 3 stars!

Cecilia Rodriguez says

Great feel good story. Very sweet.

Richard Derus says

Rating: 3.9* of five

The Book Report: A novella of love found, opportunity grabbed, and cute nebbish nabs heartthrob for a happily ever after.

Ted is the makeup artist you want for your f/x heavy film. He's 27, he's gay, he's peaking...and he's alone in life.

Len is the actor you want for your action flick. He's 29, he's a wall of muscle, and mirabile dictu he can act...man oh man can he act, as Ted's about to find out.

These boys met cute 10 years before, in regional theatre, and being clueless teens never figured out how to break the ice with each other. Now, thanks to producers with plans, the second chance we all, every living one of us, long for with someone...the one who got away...comes to these lucky, lucky men. For a wonder, they don't screw it up. That's how you know it's a novella.

My Review: It's a romance, not some damned po-mo angsty four-hankies-and-a-pistol read! Get it? Good fun in a good story well told by a writer whose ability to make her readers buy into an implausible plot is top flight.

It's the enduring appeal of mysteries and romances that Justice is Done and things end up Right. It's never more satisfying that things ending up Right for a group of people who don't get a lot of that in Real Life, like gay men and lesbians.

However much better things are for me and mine than they've been in a long, long time, the forces of negativity are still marching, carrying signs, starting lawsuits, shouting and beating and snarling at us wherever we go. A fantasy respite is hugely welcome under those circumstances. But then there's the strange and unexplainable sense of, well, rightness maybe? or comfortable familiarity? neither, both, and more, validation and vindication...the pleasaunce, to repurpose an old word, the sense of coming into a beautiful garden made for you.

I just cannot tell you how sick I am of reading about straight people's marital issues, their hook-ups, the woman getting abused in some way and never ever so much as once (very much unlike my and many other mens' life) perpetrating meanness nastiness and abuse. When something speaks to me, to my desires both physical and psychical, it is a delight.

And it's not like it was for men who came before me, either! My mother's brother, poor bastard, never came out, stayed married to a refrigerator, raised his kids and did his expected Naval officer thing, never daring to

read a Gordon Merrick novel, watch a gay porn flick, nothing that spoke to him directly, until after the refrigerator died and I sent him all my old VHS porn and one-handed reading.

I wish he was still with us. I'd give him this novella. "See, Uncle Bubba? It can mean love, being in love, loving someone who loves you back. We get to have that now."

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Otterpuss says

This was an alright read. Nothing special and a tad on the unbelievable side but ok.

Bettye Kanady says

Kiss and Makeup; well, since this book centers around Ted, a makeup artist in Hollywood, and Len, an "A-List" actor, I was sure there was going to be some fisticuffs involved in this story. Not huge damaging limbs or anything, but a definite argument or two. I mean, what happens in a fight with your lover, you "kiss and makeup" with really hot sex, right? Well, this story isn't really like that at all! Ted is the **best** makeup man in Hollywood and is increasingly distracted with the current "A-list-er" on his table. It is his job to turn the "hottest man in all of Hollywood" into an Alien Warlord... using several of the man's best assets; yep, chest, ass, arms, legs. Apparently, Ted has known Len for at least 10 years; they worked together in Summer Stock in New York. Ted hasn't forgotten "ole" Lenny Goldman and is wanting to do his best work with him, but is having difficulty keeping his mind on his work, while his fingers are playing around on Len's chest... for plaster purposes, of course. The story is very sweet and a short read.

Ayanna says

This was adorable and sweet and I really liked it and it was great and stuff.

There was one part that seemed really oddly phrased, though. When Ted was stripping, there was all this...suspense-y ominous-y stuff built up, for some reason, and when he dropped trou, I kind of scrolled back and reread and reread trying to figure out what the big deal was. I had some pretty weird thoughts running through my head, like "OMG IS HE A EUNUCH? Not that there's anything wrong with eunuchs. Wait, it might just be he's got a piercing he's self-conscious of. *But what if he's a eunuch???*" (actually my first thought was, "what, does he not have a dick or something?" I'm still unsure of that, actually. I don't seem to recall any references to Ted's dick O_o)

No, I'm sure it was nothing that dramatic...I hope.

Other than that, it was great. And I seem to be on this "acquaintance to lovers" streak now. Especially acquaintances who were sorta scrawny before but have grown and filled out to be big, brawny, sexy *men*.

