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Fae Sutherland , Marguerite Labbe

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Friends. Lovers. Realists. Up-and-coming rocker Ben Copeland and struggling actor John Calder have an unspoken understanding. Mutual pleasure, no strings attached, no demands made, not to mention chemistry so scorching it needs a warning label. For more than a year they've sexed their way from one coast to the other, and Ben's beginning to think he might just have found the key to a perfect "relationship."

Except now John's gone and fallen in love. Ben's career is finally skyrocketing and the last thing he wants or needs is the complication of too many dangerous emotions. John's not one to take no for an answer, though, and when the "Scottish Don Juan" puts his mind to something, even a man like Ben had better look out...

Genres: Gay / Contemporary / The Arts / Exhibitionism / Public Places

Entanglements Details

Date : Published August 2009 by Amber Allure (first published 2009)

ISBN :

Author : Fae Sutherland , Marguerite Labbe

Format : ebook 113 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Music, Musicians, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Entanglements for online ebook

Elizabetta says

3.5 stars

This certainly starts off with a bang. In fact, about ninety-percent of this book is about banging, ahem.

Ben and John are aspiring artists, a rock musician and actor, respectively. Both of them talented, gorgeous, desirable, randy dudes who have a hankering for each other. They are long-term fuck buddies, no strings attached-- but long enough to have gotten to the point where they really don't want to play around with others anymore, no one else will do. But they can't tell each other that. Yet. And this entanglement is the crux of this novella.

Luckily, the sex scenes are hot enough (I'm fondly recalling a couple exhibitionist/voyeur scenes... these guys really don't care when, where, or how) but the story only works because we also see the simmering yearning under all the steamy hook-ups and bravado posturing against "commitment".

If these two weren't connecting on some deeper level, what would be the point?

I like the guys, too... or mostly. Ben is pushy, arrogant, mouthy (**"Damn it... you're slipping... why're my pants still on?"**); the complete front man package. He's used to being adored and he likes to top from the bottom, is quite verbal about it, and has the motor mouth to prove it. John, working stage actor with the looks to match his sexy Scots burr, is a god in bed; the topper, he's turned on by the mouthiness, and knows just what spurs his rocker on (**"... your mouth is like a riding crop..."** -- insert sexy Scots accent here, please).

But, John wants more from Ben, the flighty wild-child. Is he gonna get it?

The authors write two distinct characters and it's a nice little story, but I find Ben's reluctance hard to understand, I don't know him well enough to know where it comes from. It seems like a manufacturing to stir up some plot tension... when, really, the guys' careers should be enough to contribute to that... And at the end of the story Ben physically lashes out in anger at an innocent by-stander... this does nothing to win me over to him; it sets me to wonder if it's only good looks and talent that John needs from his lover.

The ending shapes up to be a HFN for me as I'm not sure how the two will resolve some deep-seeded issues which their nomadic, frenetic careers can only make more difficult. If I only take this as a rocker fairy tale then it all works out well enough.

For this review, give-aways, author interviews, and much more:

melek says

Ben and john both in the entertainment business, They have an friends with benefits, when time to time they

gone for weeks or even months they with other people. Thats have they like it i guess. But time after time John starts to have feeling for Ben and just wants to be with him and him only. But things get to much for Ben he likes things that way. Will Ben wake up and see whats in front of him and finally realize what he wants.

Tina says

Ok, I finished this book a couple of days ago and wasn't going to write a review. I can't get this one little thing out of my head though. I really liked the book, but the entire time I was like YEEOOOOOWCH! These guys NEVER used lube. Like ever. They liked it to hurt. I just kept thinking... tearing and bleeding and pain, Oh My!!!

Carla says

I was prepared for this to be a three star review. The book was good all of the way through, but lacking something in the way of character development that was holding the story back for me. The last chapter made the book, truly. There were little bits here and there that were simply adorable and made me keep picking my way through the pages. I loved that John called Ben "mouthy" as an endearment - that is perfect, personable. Also the shirt of John's that Ben (mouthy) keeps pulling out - another winning moment. I think that 3.5 stars is more accurate for this book, but I am giving it 4 simply because of the scene where Mitch calls bullshit on Ben and then the ending.

Tamela says

I really loved these two guys. John and Ben were so in sync with each other and knew each other so well. What surprised me was that they were so obviously a couple when they were together, but that was not how they saw themselves.

The only thing I didn't like was that John was part of the deception to get Ben to open his eyes. It should have just been their friends doing this for them without John being part of the plan.

Rcommended

xbmbgrl says

4.5 stars

Ben and John are best friends with benefits. Frequent absences and lives on different coasts mean monogamy is not expected and that suits Ben just fine. John, however, finds that he unexpectedly wants to deepen the relationship and reach for more. More scares the crap out of Ben (even if he does picture John during random hook-ups) and the two go their separate ways over it.

Before John forces Ben to look at their relationship in a more intense way, they have some amazing, rockin' hot sexual encounters. One scene in a scummy hotel overlooking a street in New York is so hot it singed my eyebrows and made my mouth so dry my tongue stuck to the roof of my mouth! It even started out in a weirdly romantic way:

"Ben kept his eyes on John's, one hand tugging his shirt over his head, the other on the button and zipper of his jeans. Leaving them open, but on, Ben strode to the window, flipping the lock and pushing the two panes outward to let in the noise and scents of New York, then turned back to John.

'Fuck me so the whole city hears us, Casanova ...'

As careers take off on separate continents, feelings deepen on both sides. John is determined to wear Ben down and despite his best efforts, Ben blindly turns to John in times of need. Eventually Ben is forced to take a really hard look at what he wants leading to the HEA we all crave for our favorite heroes.

This book was wonderfully written. The POV was not as difficult to discern as some of the past books by the pair and the chemistry lit the pages on fire.

A few nit-picky things I should mention. John was described as Scottish with an accent. I found there were few places where his speech reflected this in written form. I forgot often that I should read it with that type of accent and in the end he was an American actor in my head.

Karen K says

I swear I could hear John's sexy Scottish accent while I was reading this, and that just made it all the better. I'm not usually a fan of a ton of sex in a shorter book but it seemed to suit this hotter-than-hell story, plus there was just enough sweetness to touch my heart.

John is such an awesome character - all smooth, suave, sexy-Scottishness, and Ben, well, he's just sex on legs on top of more sex on legs. I love that he's the bottom too, despite all his aggression and fire - bossy bottom completely suits him.

I'll admit that I'm a rockstar junkie and this book twitched and purred me in all the right places. I loved that John decided to take his fate into his own hands, despite knowing that Ben would more than likely freak out because love was just not in his vocabulary. Also loved that despite Ben's very heated objections, John just kept things going, casually, not willing to drop out of Ben's life but continuing to keep in touch in a friendly way, making sure Ben knew he was still there. It was awesome that John knew Ben's feelings for him before even Ben did and in the end, his oh-so-sneaky gamble paid off big time.

My closing thoughts are that despite their sappy declarations of love, John and Ben's relationship will continue to be hotter than hell. :)

Ami says

3.5 stars

While this book is heavy on the sex -- something that I usually don't prefer since I want to read the life OUTSIDE the sex -- but somehow I found myself engaged with the story. John and Ben are friends with benefits. But Ben likes the status quo while John wants more, since he realizes that Ben is the one for him. It's fun seeing Ben fighting his feeling only to realize that it's the same thing for him :). I like their dialogs and the ending is pretty amusing. Oh, the sex parts are also HOT :)

Lily says

Friends with benefits for over a year, Ben is a singer in a rock band and John is a struggling actor. These two sexy guys love to have hot, and I do mean hot, sex with each other and when apart with whomever they find. This 'relationship' has worked well for them until John discovers he's fallen in love with Ben. Too bad for him Ben is totally against love.

John struggles to deal with the realization that his feelings have changed and with the question of what he is going to do about it. In the meantime Ben begins to notice himself thinking more and more about John when he's with other guys. But even so he firmly refuses to even consider love.

I liked both of the main characters and certainly enjoyed reading their sex scenes, especially a very hot and memorable scene by a hotel room window but I wish I knew more about why Ben is so anti love. It feels like there should be a reason other than his vague thoughts that love and being a singer in a rock band wouldn't work. There were times when I really wanted to smack him as he was coming across a bit too self-centered and unfeeling towards John, whom I really liked.

Overall this novella, 113 pages long, is an entertaining and erotic love story. The plot is simple yet interesting and John's quest for Ben's love held my attention throughout. Nicely written with smoking hot sex scenes and a hard won HEA for John and his reluctant to the very end lover, this was an enjoyable and easy read with a very nice ending.

Edina Rose says

It is about a two guys, Ben, a singer and John, an actor. The two hook up one day, become friends and have sex when their busy timetable allows them to. They are not exclusive; they do not even consider that they are in a relationship. But the sex between them is too intense and nothing compares to it. They deny it as much as they can but they have developed deep feelings for each other.

Already they are best friends, they have lost interest for other guys, other tricks, and still they pretend it is just sex between them. Until one of them gets the courage to admit and declare his feelings... and scares the other one away.

Half of the book is before the love declaration and the other half is after the declaration, and tells about how the relationship deteriorates.

There is a lot of sex in this book, but it is hot sex, so if you are in the mood for something erotic, you'll be served. If you are not in the mood like me, you may just laugh at their antics. They are one funny couple and the way pushy Ben is "topping from the bottom" is quite entertaining. Terrible Ben! He drives John crazy and... Well, John loves it so...

Cute, fun sexy read.

Hellen says

2.5 stars

Two people to write this?

Nichole (DirrtyH) says

2.5 stars

This book was pretty much just sex with no lube and very little plot. But the authors really wanted you to know that Ben liked to "top from the bottom" and that he was not interested in love. In case you missed that. If you want a little taste of the book before you read it, just imagine lots of sex, and the phrase "his lover" about every third sentence. Casanova, gorgeous, mouthy.

Amanda says

I cried like a big ole baby reading this one. Well done, ladies.

Kassa says

This is a hot novella filled with aggressive masculine men who are stubborn to a fault. Although they are moody men, most especially Ben, this is light on the angst. The story tends to use stubborn anger as the most pervasive emotion over drawn out emotional turmoil. The focus on sex almost overwhelms the story to its detriment, but overall this is an enjoyable, easy read using some well known and loved themes. This will appeal most to fans of the authors as there is very little variation on the rock star theme found in numerous stories.

The premise is based on two celebrities, an actor and a rock star, that are friends with benefits. John and Ben met a year ago in a bar and have an easy no strings attached relationship. Both are in the entertainment industry and they enjoy the side benefits of their work (aka sleeping with fans) while seeing each other whenever possible. Their easy companionship slides to a halt when John wants more and Ben panics. However, neither is willing to completely let go so John takes a risky gamble on a happy ending.

The story is told in third person, alternating point of view with some significant pronoun confusion. There

are a few editing errors but mostly the writing is rather clean. The characters are decent and three dimensional, yet the focus on the sexual relationship leaves the emotional connection and depth of personality wanting. The two men are easy together and engage in rough, mind-blowing sex often. Neither questions nor examines why the sex is so much better together versus with others but simply indulge in the rush. Other than one or two conversations, the reader is never shown their companionship – only the hot sex and sarcastic dialogue. Supposedly the men are friends beyond the sex but that's debatable as there is very little context shown to establish that. There are hints, such as the phone calls, but very little in comparison to the sex scenes. The depth of emotion comes almost entirely from great sex and mutual satisfaction.

This makes for a fun and hot story to read but doesn't develop the relationship or characters beyond their charm and stubborn superficial nature. Ben's fear of commitment is not adequately explained, merely used to keep the tension high and the two apart until he can come to grips with his feelings for John. John's surprise at his own willingness to commit is also not well explained as John spends the entire story trying to first tell Ben about his feelings and then to convince Ben to admit to the same. The carefree no strings aspect of his personality never really presents itself.

For all these flaws, the mostly clean writing and hot sex scenes carry off an enjoyable story. This is primarily due to the plethora of erotica because frankly these authors can write some scorching sex. The biting dialogue and banter between the two – again mostly during sex (see a theme yet?) – is enjoyable and entertaining as the big, bold personality of the physically smaller Ben comes out dynamically. The theme of reluctant celebrities is tried and true and these authors offer very little in the way of a fresh, innovative take but still deliver an engaging story.. Even if the emotional connection between the two men suffered in the face of so much sex, the dialogue and characters are fun with a fast pace and quick read. It's not a story that I'd read again but Ben as a moody, mouthy dominating bottom is worth the price for this story.

JenMcJ says

Smokin' SMOKIN' hawt sex. These boys burn up the pages. Keep an eye out for their encounter in the window of the hotel in New York. That is not the only hot scene but if I was putting together a best of erotica book that pulled out sex scenes (like a porn video that just pulls out individual sex scenes) This one would be at the front of the line to add to the book.
