



A Boy and His Dragon

R. Cooper

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A Being(s) in Love Story

Arthur MacArthur needs a job, and not just for the money. Before he dropped out of school to support his younger sister, he loved being a research assistant at the university. But working for a dragon, one of the rarest and least understood magical beings, has unforeseen complications. While Arthur may be the only applicant who isn't afraid of Philbert Jones in his dragon form, the instant attraction he feels for his new employer is beyond disconcerting.

Bertie is a brilliant historian, but he can't find his own notes without help—his house is a hoard of books and antiques, hence the need for an assistant. Setting the mess to rights is a dream come true for Arthur, who once aspired to be an archivist. But making sense of Bertie's interest in him is another matter. After all, dragons collect treasure, and Arthur is anything but extraordinary.

A Boy and His Dragon Details

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From Reader Review A Boy and His Dragon for online ebook

Vio says

3.85 stars

Just adorable, Bertie is a sweetheart, how can you not fall in love with him, the darling is a delightful scatterbrain. Arthur gets his dragon in the end and they compliment each other wonderfully. A lovely feel good story and so cute. Loved the dragon storyline and their history an interesting take on a fairytale romance. Ice's review says it all so lovingly. Recommended, a fun story.

Vivian says

Smoldering hot.

Bertie has got the slow burn down pat and poor Arthur is about to self-combust, and he's not alone. This is flirtation taken to the torture level; I think I held my breath for a good portion of the book.

Dear, precious Arthur. Bertie might be too considerate for such a shy soul, I know I wanted to bind them together until they finally resolved the tension. I had to be patient, which I despise, but eventually I was rewarded. Mercy.

This book requires hot chocolate and a good blankie to truly appreciate.

Ariadna says

After being charmed by the screwball vibe of Some Kind of Magic, I was totes ready to dive back into the Beings in Love series.

Like many others, I was *ready* to enjoy the romance between a fearsome but noble dragon shifter and the human who was the dragon's literal treasure.

Unfortunately, the story was so deeply unsatisfying that I ended up doing a mental about-face after I finished it.

Bertie, the dragon, was OK. I had a difficult time feeling any kind of empathy toward Arthur. He was, simply put, TSTL.

The pacing was glacial and the many possibilities that the story would've taken never came to fruition. Not recommended.

leigh says

4.5 stars.

Whimsical shifter/human story that beautifully succeeds at characterization and romance.

Bertie the dragon is gorgeously described and his personality in human form embodies all the legends of his mythical species. He is charismatic, charming, disorganized, possessive, and hopelessly susceptible to the innocent allure of his assistant, Arthur. Arthur is human, heroic, flawed, and protective. For his dependent sister's sake, he needs to make a success of his job while struggling with his nearly overwhelming attraction to Bertie.

The men are a puzzle to each other and neither communicates well, but they persevere. There is little plot but their relationship and Arthur's slowly growing understanding of the nature of dragons. R. Cooper's prose has a unique voice which sometimes causes the reader to raise an eyebrow and track back to read that paragraph again. For me this worked, as it reflected Arthur's own hesitance and confusion; and also because this short novel is too beautiful to be hurried through as a simple and facile romance.

Highly recommended.

Emma Sea says

Felt like a bit of a slog. Interesting idea, and I liked the last 15% of the story, but overall too much organising of books and exchanging of cryptic comments/meaningful looks.

Possibly not my book.

EDIT: Also, I'd steer you towards Tiya Rosa's review, as she has a similar opinion to mine about some aspects of the book, although overall she liked it more than I.

Mandapanda says

4.25 stars. I love this delicious **slow-burn** paranormal romance about struggling, pure-of-heart Arthur McArthur and the powerful and flirtatious dragon-shifter, Dr Philbert Jones. The attraction crackles across the pages as the two MC's navigate their misconceptions, mistrust and feverish imaginings to find out what a dragon's treasure really is. The two guys don't get together until about 80% but it's fierce and erotic when they do. I love the intense way this author writes and I think her style is improving with every book I've read.

ttg says

This started as a cute story for me, but ultimately turned into a very frustrating read.

What I liked: I like Cooper's modern world with magic mixed in--a world like ours, but "Beings" like werewolves and fairies and dragons exist and live and work among people (and are "out" and known to the

world.) It's fun and imaginative, and it's a nice added twist when the academic writer is an ancient dragon with treasures hidden around his house (in between all his dusty books and research notes.)

The characters of Arthur (the boy) and Bertie (the dragon) are very appealing. Arthur is a poor grad student, struggling to keep a roof over his and his sister's head after the death of their parents. The job of assisting a dragon who is working on a book seems like a dream come true, especially since that dragon's house is a big mess and Arthur loves organizing and archiving. Discovering that dragon can shift into a hot human form and is incapable of talking to him without flirting makes things a little difficult though.

Arthur and Bertie are sweet, and their romance is a very slow burn, but overall chill and low angst as they dance around the fact that they're falling for each other.

Also, I think the cover is very cute and does a neat job of capturing the MCs.

What was harder for me: There were a few things that made this a frustrating read.

- It's a full novel, but there's very little plot and conflict so it felt very slow and a slog to get through. (view spoiler)

For me personally, this story could have been tightened up into a novella or short story, and you could have gotten a lot of the same warm fuzzies without all the pages of no-conflict story and the frustrating repetition of confusing conversations. (I kept feeling all the characters were talking with each other, but having separate conversations. That, and so much thinking between statements. "I'm in the kitchen." Paragraphs of thoughts. "I would love some tea." Paragraphs of more thoughts.)

When the h/c Arthur-and-Bertie-get-sick-and-take-care-of-each-other part came on, I kept thinking, "I know I've read something like this, but it was some 1,500 word fanfic where the writer wanted some h/c fluff." I missed that 1,500 word tightness that allows you to exercise the fluff demons out, but doesn't overburden you (and leave you bored.)

Which was probably the hardest part for me besides the confusing dialogue--I found the story and its progression very dull. I wish for such a long story, that some more conflict or plot points were added to help keep things going.

And I like sweet and warm and fuzzy, but just with something else added. Because of that, even though I usually love pairings like Arthur & Bertie, I actually like the first book in the series, *Some Kind of Magic*, a little better. I found the dialogue also confusing sometimes in that book, but I think the mystery and the crime-solving added a little more structure and fire to the narrative.

That being said, you do not need to read *Some Kind of Magic* to enjoy this book. They're in the same "world" of Beings and Humans, but they're not connected otherwise. All you need going into this book is an open mind that dragons and other magical creatures exist in our everyday lives.

Although this book didn't work for me, I have GR friends who did enjoy it very much and found it a nice read, so your mileage will really vary. You may find it a very satisfyingly warm, comforting, and sweet story about a poor student and his (literally) smokin' hot dragon boss.

If you like urban fantasy romance reads and are okay with a very slow burn romance, this may work very well for you. For me, Cooper's writing style may not be my bag. I'll probably hop off the train here unless

another mystery pops up.

Vanessa North says

[seriously FINALLY (hide spoiler)]

Jennifer?Pher? says

I've decided that when I read this series I need to just read and not think conventionally. I finished, wrote my review and then had a serious OMG moment. Duh. I really just read the book wrong. I think there are two ways to read this book.

I unfortunately was reading the book as a romance. And yes, it is, but it is not the kind I am used to and because of what my brain was thinking I totally missed the point. Here is what I wrote first.

I am totally torn by this. Part of me gets it, I really do. I felt all of it and was completely caught up in this beautiful, romantic tale, but the other part of me is screaming in frustration. They never talked. Nothing was really explained and sometimes big romantic gestures don't cure all. Arthur spent all his time thinking but never saying. Actually, he spent all his time saying exactly that "but I won't say it". Bertie never said anything. It was all gestures and quotes without explanation and Arthur, not knowing Dragons scrambled the entire book. I don't even know if at the end he understood how they got there.

Totally stealing this from Otila because it is so, so fitting.

And then the light bulb went off. This should be read like a fairy tale more than like a romance. I realized if I had just focused on being told a story about Dragon lore and noticed how the lore itself was being woven into the story I was reading I think I would have felt so much less frustration. Realizing this actually bumped it back to a 4★ read. I smiled bigger. I went back and re-read quotes and the mini stories and just felt lighter and happier. I was able to go back and actually hear everything Bertie was saying; seeing that he was weaving his own tale with Arthur and that the gestures *were* enough.

But, I am still only human and seriously needed like one more chapter. I wanted to see the results and I felt let down by not getting to see at least one day in the after, the happily ever after.

But then I remembered, with tales of Dragons, rarely did the story tell you if they lived happily ever after.

I am not a Dragon though!! I want to read the HEA!! Especially the fairy tale variety.

Mandy*reads obsessively* says

Wow, I really liked this story, and I liked it better than the first in the series, but they are totally stand alone. Dr Philbert Jones needs an assistant, desperately, the man umm..I mean dragon, might be brilliant, but he leaves notes in books, leaves those books wherever, has nothing organized and has so many valuable things he even loses them in his own house. He won't get his book done without some serious help.

Arthur MacArthur is in financial straits, so he jumps at the chance to be 'Bertie's' assistant, not only can he earn good money, but he is doing what he loves.

Bertie soon realizes what a *'treasure'* he has in Arthur, but they do speak 'different' languages, so it takes a while. Humans and Beings sometimes need a little longer to understand each other. I really liked that even though Bertie really wanted Arthur as his boy, he didn't just demand and seduce and take, no he courted and cared without being overbearing. We only get Arthur's POV but I liked Bertie so much I would have loved a bit of his POV as well.

I won't go into more, except to say it is a very romantic love story, they don't get it on till 80% but the attraction and affection and love is palatable.

This quote just sums up Bertie's feeling so well. *sigh*

"Don't be. You were breathtaking, pet. To think one such as you.... I would have waited much longer for much less. For you, Arthur, I would wait until Doomsday, don't you see? For you I'd serve."

The take and history of the Beings and Dragons was very cool, I would love to read Bertie's book when he finally finishes it! ;)

Heller says

3.5

Bertie and Arthur are adorable. I loved them. This is definitely a slow burn romance and loaded with charm. Loved the concept and the characters. Any issues that I had have to be with Cooper's writing style. It just doesn't quite work for me in a way that I felt a bit detached from the storyline. Still, a wonderfully romantic tale about a boy and his dragon. Great title.

Tanu Gill says

Oh.My.God!!!!!! I LOVED Arthur and Phil!! Such a sweeeeeet story it was! It is definitely going on my to be re-read shelf!! I could read it possibly 4-5 times more!!!!!! I am absolutely giddy after reading it!!! Eeeeeeepppp!!

Tiya Rosa says

You know that thing where you're talking to a friend about, say, Eddie Izzard's "Do you have a flag?" bit and you're all laughing and appreciating the genius that is your imaginary boyfriend and there was a slight pause in the conversation as your friend sips her coffee or takes a breath and you keep on thinking about Izzard and his drag days and you remember your drag queen cousin is coming for the party next week and he said he's bringing his new puppy and you're worried how you're gonna keep your dog from humping his dog and you remember your neighbor kicking your dog the other day because he dared sniff your neighbor's butt, so when

your friend gets back into the conversation, you say, "He's always been a bit of an asshole." And your friend says, "Eddie Izzard?" And you look at her like she's been smoking something and say, "No. My neighbor."

Well, this book was kinda like that. It was like the MCs were having a telepathic conversation and the author only managed to put half of it on paper. One of them would be saying something on one topic and the other would reply with something that seemed so off, but actually made sense once you followed the (seemingly off-page) train of thought leading from the original statement.

Also, the characters sometimes have these conversations where they say something that I thought was already cleared up pages before. Like one of them would be worrying about the other's feelings about a certain situation and I'd go, "But wasn't this discussed two chapters ago? I remember 'cause my lady boner was raging then."

This is still a pretty good book, of course. Much like the first one in the series, this one was slow-burn of the highest level and blue balls all around. The great thing about it is you appreciate the unresolved sexual tension. So much so in fact that you want to prolong it even when you're already 80 fucking percent in. The MCs have a lot of chemistry and the world building is pretty cool, though granted it was not as colorful as the first book in the series.

So, pretty much a decent read. I'm just proly not used to Cooper's writing style, which isn't exactly that big of an issue when you factor in the wonderful creatures and lovable MCs in this world. So I'll still be picking up the next book in the series, but will just mentally prep for a headache next time.

Icedave says

Update 27.01.2013

Rating, Content&Reading / constricted settings, Further Reviews

Rating:

~~4.33 stars.~~

4.67 stars.

Genre:

Sweet, slow, and calm fantasy m-m-romance novel with endearing (main) characters.

Content Advisory:

Even if one of the main character is a shape shifting dragon:

*This romance is **not** for readers looking for action, lot of smut, lots of shifting, lot of plot time with characters in shifted form, evil villains, main characters saving the world, instant and/or destined mates, etc.*

...but for readers enjoying a slow and sweet romance between endearing characters in a fantasy context (the shapeshifting dragon, world with Beings, magic, etc.)

Infos

main characters:

Dr. Philbert "Bertie" Jones, historian and book author, is a dragon in desperate need of an assistant and a helpless romantic at heart.

Arthur MacArthur, former history student, is living with Kate and in desperate need of money and a good job. Also being characterized by Bertie as: "Bold of purpose, pure of heart, fair of face"

secondary characters:

Kate, jobless and recovering alcoholic, is Arthur's sister.

impressions:

This is a mostly calm and quiet read with just a tinge of angst (by Arthur): Before coming to the job interview Arthur intends to find later a shed scale of the dragon Dr. Jones and sell it on the black market as he has a high load of debts. But he doesn't intend to do this after getting to know Bertie and fears of his reaction if he get to know of his original intention.

Content & Reading: Pros/Neutral/Cons

+ real slow romance. In the first three quarters of the book the attraction is growing until (view spoiler). More plot than sex.

+ dragon species (similar to shifters): interesting approach/implementation. Even if Bertie is mainly in his human form in the story, you get his "otherness" as he exhibits and retains some dragon traits which show now and then; like hints of the scales under/in the skin, high temperature, pupil/eye changes, flicking tongue, and one time: breath of small flame to ignite his herbal cigarette, ...

+ sweet and endearing main characters

+/- constricted settings (90% of the plot is inside Bertie's house). ~~Together with the slow romance and calm style this could lead to feelings of repetition and too short plot for book length, but it was ok for me *shrugs*~~
I'll quote a good remark by oceankitty on this: "*Maybe they need to be stuck in a "cave" [...]? A dragon has to protect his treasure, his maiden and his hoard of collected wisdom...*"

o 3rd person POV, solely Arthur. Bertie's POV was only indirectly perceivable through Arthur's perception and the readers' conclusions. Perhaps mixing it up with some chapters from Bertie's POV would have "spiced it up" regarding the effects from the constricted settings.

(Sex-/)Love Scene(s):

Quantity: low

Quality: sweet and hot

Further Reviews (I agree with):

Mandy's review

Oceankitty's review

MandyM's review
AquaScales' review

Katrina Passick Lumsden says

Interesting, imaginative, and *different*, there is, nonetheless, something just off about R. Cooper's writing. I really liked the characters, and I enjoyed the uniqueness of the lore Cooper crafted, but the narrative wasn't something I could easily immerse myself in.
