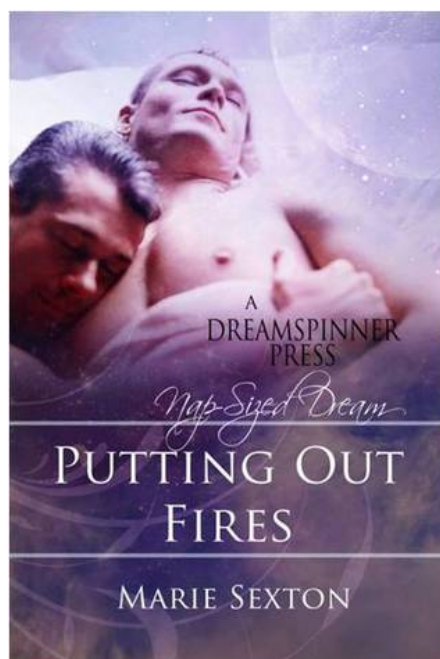




Putting Out Fires

Marie Sexton

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A Coda Valentine's Day Story

Matt Richards has never given much thought to Valentine's Day, but when his lover of almost three years, Jared Thomas, hints that he feels unappreciated, Matt realizes he needs to do something. He's determined to make this Valentine's Day special, but nothing is going to turn out the way Matt plans.

Putting Out Fires Details

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From Reader Review Putting Out Fires for online ebook

Hannah says

I love Marie Sexton's characters. I love how she always keeps their flaws and quirks consistent, regardless of which perspective she is writing from. I love that they feel like real people who have real problems and whose HEAs are still works in progress. I would probably keep reading about the Coda men for as long as Sexton chose to keep writing about them.

"Putting Out Fires" is a sweet and funny Valentine's Day story told from Matt's perspective. It's one of those simple, mostly-plotless stories where the author goes, "Well, here are my characters, doing their thing. Aren't they adorable?" And since those characters are Matt, Jared, Angelo, and Zach, my answer is "Yes. Yes, they are." I was either grinning or trying to stifle giggles the whole time I was reading.

Eva says

Sweet and very Valentiney...

Adorable little shortie.

Loved

Anna D. says

I hate to write anything negative about something relating to this couple because they are honestly at the top of my favorite MM couples list. This short Valentine story wasn't bad, it was just ok – which is the disappointing part because first of all \$2.99 for 36 pages is just crazy! And secondly – and more importantly – only about 25% of it had Matt & Jared together. This story was mostly Matt thinking, worrying, and getting all worked up about Jared not feeling appreciated and Matt trying to make Jared feel appreciated and loved. And although it was funny, entertaining, and we love seeing anything with these two guys anyway, there was very little romance and story. This is really more like an extended epilogue that comes at the end of the book or a free short story. I actually loved the free short, The Promise, more because that to me had more romance.

The good thing about this book though is that it reminds us of the first time the two guys met and that they are still going strong and they really are perfect for each other. They have settled into their relationship and their lives but we can sense that there are still sparks between them. I also love the reminder that Valentines is such a female holiday and that these guys remind us of their definition of the day: Mobster movies, beer, and wings. LOL! Actually that sounds better than flowers and chocolate to me, though I would prefer to watch The Notebook over Goodfellas. LOL!

In summary, for the price..I would say you can skip this book unless you're able to read this on a loan. I remain a fan of this series and author, though you if you are hankering for some Matt/Jared love, I would suggest a re-read of Promises over this.

Sheri says

Lovable & Foolish. Jealous & uncertain. Unnecessary fears.

One would think three years into a relationship would solidify confidence in your bond. That maybe, *just maybe* you would know what your spouse, lover and best friend thinks and feels. Matt is an exception to this, for he is obviously still clueless.

My first thought, 'Poor Jared'. However, in reality there is no poor Jared. Jared loves his jealous, insecure and oblivious partner. He loves him with every bit of his heart, and Matt loves him just as fiercely. They truly are a perfect pair.

This brief peek into their lives shows us Matt struggling to express his love and appreciation to Jared on Valentine's Day. It is hilarious, silly and snort out loud humor. I enjoyed it immensely. I just can't get enough of these two.

4.5 comical stars

Mary says

When I think about the Coda books, Matt and Jared are the first thing that come to mind-they are my favorite couple in the series-so I was a little disappointed that the story was so short. BUT, what it lacks in length it makes up in pure sweet comedy at Matt's expense (sorry Matt!) as he tries to (1) come up with something special for his sweetie on Valentine's, and (2)-to actually go about doing it when he has no idea how!

A hilarious and romantic short, and great addition to the Coda series. :D

Edina Rose says

It is sweet because it's the guys we have loved since Promises. But it does not stand out as a story.

UKSandy says

FANTASTIC Marie!

OMG I was laughing out loud at work when Matt was cooking dinner and when Scooby ran past with the steak in his mouth it nearly killed me! I was in stitches.

I just love Matt & Jared, great story for Valentines Day Marie.

Exina says

Matt thinks that being in a relationship with a man means he doesn't have to put much effort into romantic things. But when Jared hints that he feels unappreciated, Matt determines to show him how much he loves and cherishes him. But things haven't worked out as he planned.

The story borders on burlesque, still it manages to be charming and laugh-out-loud funny.

I loved Angelo's ideas for how Matt should make their Valentine's Day special. ;)

Recommended!

Originally posted on my blog on October 11, 2015.

Susan65 says

Very humorous short story featuring Matt and his funny attempts at making Jared feel appreciated for Valentines Day. I laughed out loud a couple times.

Tam says

Fans of the author's novel Promises will find this cute little Valentine's short a must-read. It's been three years since Matt and Jared met, and Jared's angry comment about being appreciated along with Matt's colleague's marriage break-down, triggers Matt to begin a quest to make Valentine's Day perfect for Jared and show him that he loves him and appreciates him.

Matt is a guy's guy. He doesn't get Valentine's day, and Angelo and Zach from A to Z aren't much help. Angelo thinks he's insane to even try, and while Zach gives him a pretty good idea, it doesn't go the way Matt intends. In fact the whole thing goes to hell, and instead of walking into the perfect Valentine's Day celebration, Jared comes home to a disaster. However their day ends up not being all bad and Matt achieves his goal after all, of making Jared confident of his love.

This was very sweet and a fun revisit with the guys. I loved that we got to see Zach and Angelo again as well. I was shaking my head at Matt's attempts to create the perfect Valentine's Day experience. Boys. This is told from Matt's first person point of view, so you are privy to his thoughts about Jared, how they met, how Jared changed his life and how much he loves him, but like many guys, he just can't get it out, but Jared knows.

You don't HAVE to have read the other books to enjoy this. There is enough background thrown in to explain how they met and got together for the uninitiated, however it will be especially rewarding for fans of the couple, and series, but perhaps this little taste will encourage someone to pick up Promises and truly get to know Matt and Jared a little better. Definitely a cute little addition to the series.

Sharon ∞🐼 is an emotional book junkie 🐼∞ says

The only reason this is not getting 5 stars is that it was just too short. I love Matt and Jared....they are so good together. Matt was busting me up...such a typical guy. The whole dinner fiasco was hilarious!!! Matt and Scooby fighting over the steak and Jared walking in? Loved it. Can't wait for the next book.

Michael says

Cute catch up valentine related short story featuring Matt and Jared from Promises.

Romantic without being overly sappy or complete mush.

My one issue with the story would be that after 3+ years being in a gay relationship the character's narrative voice should be beyond thinking of things as straight/gay, manly/fem...emphasizing how they are too manly.

"I stopped by the liquor store Zach had mentioned and bought the wine and a corkscrew to open it with, because I was pretty sure we didn't own one. Jared and I never drank anything but Dr Pepper and beer, but I figured the wine was worth a shot." I have a hard time believing that Matt and Jared don't entertain. It doesn't butch them up to read that they wouldn't have a cork screw because they drink beer.

"Maybe I was supposed to use a cookie sheet? Not that we owned one of those anyway" What adult with a home doesn't own a cookie sheet? Frozen pizza, fish sticks, garlic bread...they are for more than cookies.

There are a few others that I won't mention for fear of spoilers.

It was also a little odd for Matt to get romance advice from Ang. Ang who is in an open relationship and can't be tied down, talking about how guys don't get into romance and V-day... *rolls eyes*

The ending washed away any issues I had with the set-up and I really enjoyed reading it.

Fans of Promises will really enjoy this sweet bite of Matt and Jared.

Enny says

This Valentine's short story was so funny that I had tears streaming down my face AND so romantic that I got all verklempt. Even after having read hundreds of m/m stories, Marie Sexton is still my favorite author in this genre.

? BookAddict 🐼 La Crimson Femme says

This short story about Matt trying to do a Valentine's Day for Jared was amusing. I liked seeing him scramble around and end up doing what Angelo originally recommended. It's hard not to empathize with Matt. This story did hit home that I may take my DH for granted and I should do something romantic for him and make him feel special. A sweet romantic story - recommended for the romantic readers.

LauraSt says

OMG!!! Cutest thing in the world! Also one of the funniest shorts ive ever had the pleasure of reading, I just totally loved this!

Apparently, you weren't supposed to put the steaks right on the rack. Maybe I was supposed to use a cookie sheet? Not that we owned one of those anyway.

A Coda Valentine's story, Matt doesn't really give much thought to the romantic holiday, but when Jared hints at feeling unappreciated Matt jumps at the chance to do something that makes his partner feel more than simply appreciated. But his determination only ends up in disaster. Oh but what a wonderful one.

I'll just grab this moment to fan girl over Ang and Zach...

Zach looked up from his computer. "What?"

"You know today's Valentine's Day?"

Zach stared at us blankly for a second, looking completely shell-shocked. "No."

"Did you buy me anything?"

Zach's cheeks actually started to turn red. He didn't blush often, but Angelo's question obviously made him uncomfortable. "Um... no."

"Good. I didn't get you anything either."

The relief on Zach's face was almost laughable. "Thank God," he said as he turned back to his computer.

"Jesus, Ang, don't scare me like that."

I turned the gas up all the way, alternately hitting the button and trying to light the grill with the Bic.

Nothing worked. It occurred to me that if there had actually been

propane in the tank, I would probably have blown myself up by now. I should probably have been thankful for small favors. Somehow though, I wasn't.