



It's All Geek to Me

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Jez is on a mission of mercy: to replace a tragically deceased comic book for his injured best mate, Tel. Venturing into the Hidden Asteroid bookstore in London—the temple of geekdom itself—Jez is bowled over by the guy behind the counter.

Rhys is the poster boy for hot geeks: tall, gorgeous, and totally cool. Jez is desperate to impress him, so he bluffs his way through comic book jargon . . . and then dashes back to the hospital to beg Tel to teach him how to speak Geek.

Tel's happy to oblige, and Jez is over the moon when Rhys asks him out. He's even more thrilled when they discover a shared love of rugby, something he won't have to fake for Rhys. The question is, how long can Jez keep up the deception, and what will happen when Rhys realizes he's going out with a Fake Geek Guy?

It's All Geek to Me Details

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From Reader Review It's All Geek to Me for online ebook

Lori says

Mate, it was bloody BRILLIANT. I loved it.

Vivian says

Humorous romance that's filled with stumbling, bumbling awkwardness, some English male bonding, and then some more bonding. Almost too light and fluffy for me. Cute, but Jez's self deprecation got annoying and the resolution was super quick because the conflict wasn't so conflicting.

Elsbeth says

Okay, what I thought this book was going to be about, and what it really was about were two very different animals. I thought the main character was going to learn about, and maybe enjoy the geek lifestyle. No, that is not what happens, he learns to lie about living and loving the lifestyle. This really pissed me off, I mean I do not see a relationship based on lies ever lasting.

I am also getting sick of this trend Merrow has with the manic main character. The main character is like a sugared up ankle biting yappy dog. He has a tendency of speaking his thoughts out loud when not meaning too, staring at people with his mouth hanging open in lust, and tripping over his own feet when offered a smile.

It's like Jude from Slam! all over again.

So yeah, this book just wasn't for me.

I received this book from NetGalley for an honest review.

Makhda says

3.5 stars

This was so funny. Crack me up! Damn, I love shorty like this. Although unfortunately the sex scene is not that hot. Because I was busy laughing at them. *lol*

Thank you, Van! :))

Amy says

Geeky, cheeky and so very cute! A short novella about Jez, pretending to like comic books to capture the attention of Rhys, the hot geek working at the comic book store. I enjoyed the Britishisms... I thought about it for a mo, I was on it like a car bonnet, and Oh, crap a rat :) Throw in some snogging and groping and

you've got a winner! Loved it!

Mandy*reads obsessively* says

3.75*

Rhys is sexy and hot and a geek, what's poor Jez to do? Well, pesters is best friend Tel in to giving him geek lessons, obviously.

"Tel might not be the High Priest of Geek, but he was definitely some kind of acolyte at the Temple of Geekdom."

This is a fast, cute and funny read. Jez just keeps digging himself in deeper, but he so wants Rhys to like him he can't seem to stop himself. I wish it had been longer and that the conflict/deception and its resolution had been more drawn out. But this is a great *in-between quickie-light-pick-me-up-read*.

"I'm not cool, Tel. I'm like the opposite of cool. If I was a supervillain, I'd be Antifreeze."

It's told completely from Jez's POV, he's funny, self deprecating and trying so hard to impress.

"This was perfect."

Apart from the whole deceiving-him-into-thinking-we-liked-the-same-stuff thing, obviously. Shit."

But Rhys has a surprise for Jez.

Heather C says

A JL Merrow short story is always a guaranteed fun time...and I had a lot of fun with this one.

Jez is trying to cheer up his best friend Tel by replacing Tel's comic book that was ruined in an accident that has him temporarily confined to a hospital bed. Tel knows all things from comic geekdom. And Jez? Well he's only interested if it has been made into a movie. So when Jez enters the Hidden Asteroid book store and encounters the hunky Rhys working behind the counter, Jez pretends to know all about the world of comic books in hopes to impress Rhys with his shared obsession. Now he needs Tel's help! What would Rhys do if he found out that he and Jez really don't have anything in common? And what if Rhys has a few secrets of his own?

I swear, I laughed my fucking "arse" off reading this book! I loved Jez's voice and snark. He was a bit insecure and considered himself plain and "cuddly"...how could I not adore him?! I mean, he was so opposite of cool he was "antifreeze". (His words, not mine) And he never had any malicious intent with his deception...it was kinda cute to be honest. Rhys was a great character too, although I didn't really get a chance to know him very well as the story is told only from Jez's pov.

I did find that I didn't "get" most of the comic references. Wasn't sure if they were fictional, or too British, or my level of "geek" was just too low. The romance was a bit instant and we really didn't get to see much of them getting to know each other. Hard to get all that in such a short story, but of course the short length makes it the perfect "in between book" since it will take only about an hour or so to read all the way through.

Recommended for when your in the mood for something quick and funny.

3.5 Stars

Reviewed for The Blogger Girls

Sunny says

Cute, funny, and oh so awkward. I liked it even though I usually *hate* when people pretend to be something they aren't. I also enjoyed the twist at the end :)

Side note:

Jez's self deprecating comments about his looks got to be very tiresome.

Katharina says

3.5

This was a fun short story, very British (I love the British slang!!), and with the typical J.L. Merrow humour. If you want something quick, short, fun, easy, light, and perfectly happy to surf right along the surface instead of diving in deep, this is the read for you.

Which is exactly which I was looking for, so I've decided to round up to four stars this time.

The drawbacks? It was a little bit too over-the-top funny (as in trying-too-hard-and-a-little-bit-contrived funny). The constant quips back and forth made this entertaining, but it also kept the distance between characters and reader and hindered me in really feeling a connection with Jez and Rhys. And while I think sex is a very fun and often enough funny thing, the one-liners were a little bit too much there.

So, as I said, fun and funny and entertaining and deliciously superficial (and not trying to be anything else either). Exactly what I was hoping for despite my little nagging.

Laura says

Mohawks, sexy smiles, laughter, cuddles, snogging, and groping! KA-POW! This gem had it all.

"Hot Hawk's lips curved into a slow smile. Oh, God. That was it—that was his superpower, right there. Seducto Smile. Bloody hell, it was fiendishly effective. I smiled back helplessly."

Jez and Rhys, two lovable blokes, meet in the geeky land of comics. A land alive with superheroes and villains. But an assumption, a few head nods, and white lies, soon lead Jez into dangerous territory of deception and hurt. Can he stop pretending and reveal his true self without losing the guy of his dreams?

Merrow absolutely nails the feel and energy of the awkward and often humiliating "Gah!" moment when you spot someone you fancy. Someone you want to know, touch, and kiss! This quick, hilarious tale reminds me

just how geeky we all can be when the guy you like turns around, looks right at you, and BOOM! Time stops. Words get stuck and all tangled up. Feet stumble. Eyes go starry. Haha...Rhys and Jez will charm you at first sight!

My only complaint is Jez's constant comments about his looks. I appreciate the issue being addressed —men having low self-esteem about their body needs to be talked about more in life and fiction. But by the end of the story, I felt like it was mentioned on every page.

Morrow always makes me smile though. This was a sweet dose of geeky fun.

J.L. Morrow says

This book owes its existence to two things: a friend's book signing, and an email from Riptide editor, Sarah Frantz.

When Saxon's Baneby Geoffrey Gudgion was launched in London's Forbidden Planet bookshop I knew at once I had to set a story there. So I pranced around taking about a hundred pictures on my phone, shoved them in a folder with the working title of "Temple of Geekdom" and put the project to one side while I finished up Relief Valve. A little while later I added some notes on characters I thought would work with the setting: a lovable boy-next-door type who's totally out of his depth in the comic-book world; and a tall, dark and handsome Goth type who's not nearly as intimidating as he looks; but it was all still firmly on the back burner. After all, I'd already started working on the next novel (Caught!, due out August 2014) and was knee-deep in rat traps and bow ties. Metaphorically speaking.

Then Sarah got in touch, asking if I had any spare stories lying around. Well, no - but I did have this idea for a story I'd like to write. So I dusted off my files and got scribbling... ;)

I hope readers will enjoy the results - I certainly had enormous fun writing it!

Ije the Devourer of Books says

I am a comic book fan so of course I really enjoyed this. I also enjoy the British feel that so many of JL Morrow's stories have and the humour. A nice read as all her books are.

Heller says

2.75

A cute British, British morsel of a read but found it a bit geek bashy even if done in good spirits. I did like Jez and Rhys together and the twist was a nice touch.

~☆~Danni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

J.L. Merrow books are always a good time, and this one is no exception. Brainy lab chemist Jez tries to pass for a comic book geek to catch the tall, dark, and handsome Rhys he meets at a comic store. Jez is at the store to help out a good friend who's laid up in the hospital with both legs in a cast. But Jez desperately wants the hunk, so he pretends to be something he's not (namely: into comic books and all things geeky).

I giggled many times while reading this. Jez is adorable (although I wanted to kick his arse for thinking he was fat and mentioning this to Rhys as Rhys is taking off Jez's shirt for the first time. Way to kill the mood, man). Rhys is sweet and witty and....

I'm not sure I can come up with other adjectives, as this is a short story, and the characters weren't all that well developed. Is Rhys a student? How old are these guys? Will Jez's friend ever seduce the red-headed nurse at the hospital? And why is everyone so appalled that Jez is pretending to be something he's not? Surely, there are worse offenses than pretending to like comics when you prefer rugby one week into a relationship. (Incidentally, Rhys likes rugby too...all is not lost and not exactly as it seems.)

There's a theme: Be honest...with yourself and others. Yup. Nothing too deep, lots of comic book talk (which went right over my head), one sexy scene, and two cute boys.

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

A cute, fluffy read for all Brit-speak lovers out there. I enjoyed the humor in this book best of all. It was all awkward sputtering and clumsy romance, which I found to be pretty endearing. I haven't read much by this author and this made me want to read more by her.

What didn't quite work for me was the way the main character, Jez, constantly put himself down. If the book was longer, than perhaps we could have gotten into Jez's issues and the self putdowns could have worked. However, in a book of this length, the low self-esteem was distracting and off putting.

Overall a nice, quick read.

****Copy provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review****
