



# Open Arms and Open Eyes

*Michelle K. Grant*

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Dear Author,

*I was surfing YouTube the other day and I came across a vlog my boyfriend made. I didn't even know he had a YouTube channel. He's never told me he makes videos. He obviously wants to remain anonymous because he's using a fake name. I only watched two of them. Even so, I feel like a total creeper. He's not real great at talking about serious stuff, at least not to me, so it was really weird watching him open up in those videos. In one of them, he talked about me. It was nice, but I don't think he meant for me to ever see it. A couple of the titles really have me wondering about things... Should I watch them? I know he'd be embarrassed if he knew I knew. I don't know what to do.*

### Photo Description:

A young man with warm brown eyes and shaggy, tousled brown hair looks seriously into the camera before pulling his long bangs back to reveal "I Love You" written in symbols on his forehead. His face breaks into a huge open smile as his secret is revealed.

This story was written as a part of the M/M Romance Group's "**Love Has No Boundaries**" 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.

## Open Arms and Open Eyes Details

Date : Published June 5th 2013 by M/M Romance Group @ goodreads

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Author : Michelle K. Grant

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# From Reader Review Open Arms and Open Eyes for online ebook

## Yvonne says

*\*\*A Love Has No Boundaries Story\*\** Just a sweet story of budding love between a cute interracial couple. But I found it a little wordy which bogged down the story. if it's going to be a short story you needed more action. It's also one of those GFY where the guy claims to not be gay but just attracted to that one guy. You always imagine that this is someone in some deep denial which is pretty shaky grounds to start a relationship.

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## mw138 says

Sweet friends-to-lovers story.

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## Elizabetta says

### 3.5 stars

The premise is sweet in this friends to lovers YA short. Two long-time pals, now college students, find they have common feelings for each other. Lionel wants to tell Christopher that he's been attracted to him since high school, but Christopher has his own way of getting the word out. I like how social media plays a hand in helping them find their way. **Free** from the 2013 M/M Romance Group's Love Has No Boundaries event.

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## Lucy says

While the story really is just a talk between two friends (about to be more maybe?) in a cafe, I liked the emotions that carried through it. Unsure, uncommunicative Chris and his uncertain Lion. I loved the vlog confession.

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## Mandy\*reads obsessively\* says

### 3.5\*

Sweet friends to boyfriends, hurt-comfort and opposites attract story.

This YA short is really just a conversation between the two young men at a café.

Lionel is a great guy and he has it bad for Christopher and he has since high school, but because of a lot of reasons he never told him. Christopher's background and place in life is a lot different from Lionel's, but he has depended on him and his friendship to keep him sane.

This is where they finally talk about how they really feel about the other.

Cute, sweet and despite the hopeful HFN ending and the shortness of the story, I was satisfied at the end these two were going to make a real go of it and be good for each other.

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## Victoria Zagar says

Open Arms and Open Eyes is part of the free Love Has No Boundaries event on Goodreads.

**Lionel and Chris were close in high school but drifted apart. They come together to talk in a coffee shop where Chris shows Lionel his video log, revealing his former drug addiction - and his feelings for Lionel.**

Open Arms and Open Eyes was on the lower end of average for me. I just didn't have enough time to really connect with these guys and I didn't feel a lot of chemistry between them. It wasn't a story I'd pick out of a crowd, and it's hard to define what exactly was wrong with it. It was quite sweet, but I couldn't really relate to either of the guys, and it didn't really speak to me or evoke any warm fuzzy feelings. There's nothing really wrong with it, it's just a typical contemporary story about two young men and their love story that gets lost in a sea of other similar tales.

It's not a bad short story for a lazy summer afternoon, it's quick and easy to read and fairly uplifting. Other readers may relate to these characters more than I did. For me Open Arms and Open Eyes didn't really draw me in and make me care about its characters as a good romance should.

You can download Open Arms and Open Eyes at the Goodreads M/M Romance Group's website.

This review was cross-posted to Infinite Love.

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## Izzah Zulaikha says

Ahh.... I'm screaming at how cute this is!! >\_<  
Thank you!

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## Julio Genao says

**I wish I had bangs, too.**

To try and tell an entire story with exposition is to try to make music with a single note in a single key on a single instrument.

Like someone trying to play Beethoven's 9th with just a cymbal.

It gets really old, really fast—no matter how short it is.

And when you try, as attempted here, to do it not just in one conversation, but in one that refers to other, *completely different* conversations with other people in the past? *And* a video blog play-by-play?

Lawd ha' mercy.

Nice setup, though. Points for lovely characters—but more showing and less telling would have helped, and *all*-showing and no-telling would have been ideal.

It's like with movies: films aren't just dialogue. You need scenery, motion, sound...

...candy

...a date to sexually harass throughout

...etc.

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### **Pete W says**

The vibe I got from this story is that this is like an edit down version of a longer story. Yet at the same time it felt just right for the story it meant to tell.

Regardless, I liked this one quite a bit. I liked how Ms. Grant was able to tell a lot more story than what appeared on pages without being too much or too little.

The MCs were cute and the story was like a prologue of the next chapter in their lives.

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### **Cole Riann says**

Just couldn't get into the confessional dialogue style...

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### **Sandra says**

Offered for FREE from the M/M Romance Group's Love Has No Boundaries event. Thank you too all the amazing authors who participated!

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### **Nina says**

Have you seen the prompt gif? It's Charlie!  
I <3 U 2...

On to the story.

This is really cute and adorable, and that's pretty much all I can say about it without giving anything away, since it's only around 5000 words.

I do have a few nits to pick, namely:

1. Retelling of past stories through the characters' dialogue - this normally puts me off, and it kind of did here, too, but it was done in a pretty smooth and unnoticeable way so I can't really complain-

2. The "I'm not gay, I only love you" trope - people, it's getting old! It was sweet the first dozen times I read it, but try to find something else to spice your story up, because this ain't workin' no more. Or, hey, I have a better idea: *man up and admit you're gay*-

3. The transcribed vlog - could have been done way, way better. There's n way that 10 written lines could fill up a vlog longer than a minute, if that, and who actually says "i.e." irl? However, the youtuber thing was the main reason why I read this story and it's an interesting variation from the sea of monotonous M/M short stories out there, and for that alone it's worth reading-

-but, as you can see, none of these really bothered me, so. Yeah. Cute.

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### **Bárbara says**

Gah!  
This was so, so sweet!

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### **Exina says**

*Open Arms and Open Eyes* is an **extremely short** short story. Actually, I don't think it meets the requirements of the genre of a short story. For one thing, there is no plot. We have two characters, yes, and a setting, even a conflict, but sadly the "story" and the writing style has no effect on the reader.

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### **Julesmarie says**

The prompt was interesting, but I think the story was perhaps simply too short to do it justice.

I don't feel like I know either of the characters very well, in spite of getting to witness Christopher's confessions about his past. I think if I'd gotten to spend some more time with them--perhaps even when they were in high school together--I might have felt more connected to them.

2.5 stars, rounded up for being free

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