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Breaking up with his boyfriend has left English Professor Derek Chandler feeling lonely and down. He begins to think that he just doesn't have the passion to sustain a long-term relationship -- at least until a letter from a mysterious "Cupid" tells him not to lose hope. Intrigued, Derek replies to his anonymous admirer, and they begin a correspondence where Derek discovers he isn't the only one with doubts about his desirability.

Dr. Macon Pinney has admired his colleague from afar for quite a while, but he only intended his initial note to Derek to offer encouragement. Macon doesn't believe that outgoing, sociable Derek could ever be interested in the type of quiet, withdrawn man he knows himself to be. And yet when Derek writes back, admitting his worries about never finding a true partner, Macon can't help but reply, sharing his own feelings from the safety of anonymity.

But will Macon find the courage to step out of the shadows and admit to Derek his identity, or will both men spend the most romantic day of the year alone?

Letters from Cupid Details

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Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

A cute, nerdy story about two professors finding love with each other around Valentine's Day.

Can I just get one thing off my chest? Professors do NOT talk like these two men in the story. They simply do not. I've been around academics and geeks for years, and I've never encountered anyone who speaks with such stilted, pretentious dialogue. It felt forced to the max, and if I was ever sleeping with anyone who started quoting literature in the bedroom with a straight face, they would be booted out in a hot second.

If you ignore the absolutely ridiculous way that these guys talked, there was a sweet story underneath. I liked the idea of a secret admirer, and the fact that these two were so "aww shucks" and shy with one another MADE the story for me. I wanted to push these two guys together and give them a slap on the tush to get things moving, but in an endearing way.

Overall, it left me with a happy feeling, and it was a nice way to spend a little bit of time. A worthwhile holiday read.

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

Candice says

This story was cute, but kind of stilted. I had to fight to not become bored in the dialogue. Nobody in real life talks the way these two did. I loved how shy they both were though, even in their 40's, especially Macon with his hermit self.

There was a name mix up (Mason instead of Macon) and that's my number one pet peeve in reading.

Overall, it was cute little Valentine's Day read.

V says

This story was nice don't get me wrong, these guys are over 40, posh Academics and a little bit boring. Don't mind me, I'm just plain and simple and these 2 guys were far too Academic for my taste.

Ann says

It was refreshing to read a story with a college setting, where both MC's are professors and have some realistic maturity to them. Not a frat party to be found.

This was a really sweet story full of old fashioned romance that was a perfect Valentine's Day read.

Adrianamae, Marco's fan says

2.5 stars

A short, intelligent story about academics in love. It was smart and charming –the language kind of old fashioned, but I enjoyed this slow courting, probably because it was such a subtle, mature romance with random acts of kindness running through the plot –because that’s the reason the missives from “Cupid” started, someone cared that the professor was not having a good valentine’s day and our anonymous writer wanted to “bolster” Derek.

But this story was quite subtle and slow...pretty slow...to the point that I had to force myself to finish. I just wanted them to stop the missives coming and going, and finally settle into a true--can we get physical instead of hiding behind paper?—romance because I did get frustrated, and I just wanted these two men with all their doubts and insecurities to just hurry and get it on because, after all, you’re mature men, no? As lovely as the language was –and the use of it was smart- I just wanted it done.

Blame it on my hyperactivity or my being too old cuz time a-wasting and if you find someone, grab them with your two hands and don't let go.

Kudrat Kaur says

While these two were cavity inducing to read, I wasn’t too impressed. It’s a typical Valentines short with its cheesiness so much can be forgiven. Still I’ll be critical in what bothered me about this book.

This is a story about a professor (Derek) who’s never had that spark with anyone in his life, and another professor (Macon) who is in actuality a teenaged girl. They’re both obvious nerds and their love for literary figures was a great touch. The way they communicated, although I would roll my eyes so hard I’d dislodge something, it fit with them. The thing was, though, I couldn’t get to a point where I really cared enough about these guys that I was invested in how this would end up playing out (which is really obvious from the get go).

The premise is adorable. Writing anonymous notes to a guy you think must be having a hard time to cheer up their day. To slowly get to know them without anything really standing in the way. It’s great.

Except the pacing was really off. Macon came up with the idea of writing a letter as Cupid way too quickly. The way he reacted to Derek’s conversation was a bit too outraged for someone who didn’t already kind of like Derek. His denouncement of Mark sounded really stalker-ish. There was little character development on Macon’s part.

The circumstances were all so convenient. For example, Jason’s online dating. It was conveniently placed so that Derek talks to him right after having doubts about continuing his correspondence with Cupid. It’s like that moment in soaps where protagonist 1 is leaving in one elevator and the doors are closing, while the doors of the elevator next to it are opening showing protagonist 2.

I know that the story was short enough as it is, so the author really had to make use of the words she had. So

this is to be expected, but the pacing was already off so this really didn't help the case.

I felt like the writing was also a bit too liberal with the use of a thesaurus, as well as the use of exclamation marks. I know that they're supposed to be professors, so talking pretentiously comes with the territory. But I couldn't help but be unable to get into the story because of how ridiculous I was finding the dialogue.

The back and forth between points of view wasn't consistent, with first there being alternating chapters for whenever the point of view changed, and then mid chapter changes. And then one point of view persisting much longer compared to how it was up to that point.

The whole cupid reveal was also quite anti-climactic and adding in Mark in at the end completely unnecessary.

While there was quite a lot I didn't like, or thought could have done better. This story was still cute, and I'm pretty sure others would enjoy it more than I did.

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review
Reviewed by Kudrat from Alpha Book Club

Didi says

Two forty-ish professors. Slow burn. Subtle wooing. Poems. Chocolate. Desk sex heavy make-out. A cute and sweet Valentine story of not-exactly-friend-but-next-door-office colleagues. Angst-free and very low level - quickly resolved - misunderstanding. Both characters were mature men of 40 and 42, so they're pretty low key and level headed. Pretty heartwarming read for Valentine's Day. :)

Gigi says

Silly and cheesy and romantic... *EXACTLY* what a Valentine's tale should be. Topped off with an awesome sex scene, Happy Valentine's Day M/M romance fans!

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

This story was cute, whimsical, and romantic, but I had to shake my head at the stilted language.

I didn't mind the letters being so formal and awkward, because it was correspondence with Cupid after all, but the way these guys talked, good lord, no wonder they weren't getting laid.

I'm an academic, and I can assure you that the only academic I've known who talked like that was 86 and had won the Noble Prize.

If you can push aside the copious amounts of cheese, this is a sweet, no-angst, lightly steamy Valentine's Day story.

Tina says

Nerd-Alarm! This is a sweet, cheesy love story. The way these two shy, adorable college professors get to know each other is told very entertaining. Loved the letters from Cupid.

I thoroughly enjoyed the story. Recommended! :)

I guess I need to create a new shelf for those two guys: nerds-love. :)))

Macky says

3.5 stars

Valentine's Day isn't far away, so this little romance with Cupid in it's title fits the bill very nicely. As it says in the synopsis, it features two college English professors: Dr Derek Chandler and Dr Macon Pinney.

Both heading towards forty, they've worked together at the college for seven years but have never really interacted much during that time.

Shy and reserved, Macon is not an unfriendly man but he is quiet and a touch withdrawn so tends to keep himself to himself. Secretly, he's always thought that the more outgoing Derek was attractive, so has admired him from afar, but aware that Derek was in a relationship, never instigated a friendship; until the day he overhears him telling another colleague he and his partner have split up, and that he's now worried that somehow he'll never find passion in his life.

What follows is a gentle, slow burn courtship that begins with Macon doing something completely out of character for him. Seeing Derek feeling so low he decides to write him a self esteem boosting letter from 'Cupid' hoping to lift his spirits. Surprised but also curious, Derek answers and the two of them begin a regular backwards and forwards correspondence. It's not long before Derek finds himself intrigued by this anonymous man who calls himself Cupid and feeling charmed by the letters, he decides its time to make contact with his subdued colleague, who he also finds attractive beneath the slightly buttoned up exterior. Although Macon is worried that he'll find out and be disappointed when he finds out who Cupid really is, he still finds himself responding to the tentative friendship they start to build despite the fact that Derek has no idea that 'Cupid' and Macon are one and the same!

Link to rest of review: <http://bit.ly/18VEsgE>

?SINFULLY...Addicted To All Male Romance

Formerly

Sandra says

This was the perfect Valentine's Day tale - two sweet, slightly nerdy profs communicating via letters in the weeks leading up to February 14th.

After overhearing a conversation in the office next door, occupied by one Dr. Derek Chandler, university professor, Macon Pinney (whose name I repeatedly read as Mason) disagrees with Derek's assessment of his love life and pens a letter to his colleague, signing it "Cupid".

And thus begins a back and forth correspondence between Macon/Cupid and the object of his affection, Derek. Except, of course, Derek has no idea who Cupid is - it certainly couldn't be the cute but aloof professor in the office next door. Right?

At the same time, Derek tries to get to know Macon in person, and confesses his innermost thoughts to Cupid. Who's also Macon.

But Macon thinks that Derek's gushing over the cute man he's interested in doesn't pertain to him, and is afraid that he might have lost his chance to win Derek's heart...

Seriously cute, even though the correspondence was a little stilted - I thought that just added to the charm. Both men didn't think they had a chance with the other, both of them hesitant to really open themselves up to possibly hurt, and thus super careful with revealing their desires. However, once the truth comes out... well, you read this for yourself.

If you're looking for a sweet Valentine's Day romance, try this one.

** I received a free copy of the 2nd edition of this book from its publisher. A positive review was not promised in return. **

Lena Grey says

After Macon, of 'Letters from Cupid' by Ari McKay, accidentally overhears that his colleague, Derek, has been dumped by his lover and that Derek thinks he will never find anyone else, Macon wants to find a way to bolster Derek's self-confidence. Since it's close to Valentine's Day, Macon comes up with the idea of sending Derek letters relaying to him what "Cupid" thinks are his good qualities and why anyone would be fortunate to be his partner. It takes a while to talk himself into it, but eventually, assured of his anonymity, he tacks a note signed by Cupid on Derek's door. Macon is amazed when Derek answers Cupid's message, signing his notes "Eros".

Over the next few weeks, Cupid and Eros exchange many messages talking about their lives and getting to know each other without ever meeting. Derek is intrigued and begins to think about who Cupid could be. Macon, who has always admired Derek, begins to have more self-confidence in himself and starts to come out of his shell. He doesn't admit he is Cupid, but begins to spend more time with Derek. They begin to look

at each other from a different perspective which stirs up feelings neither realized they had. Derek begins to suspect his Cupid may be Macon and, instead of confronting him, he begins to confide in him about a man he's interested in. Macon hopes he is the man Derek is writing about. One day, while Derek is waiting in a coffee shop for Macon, a young colleague and friend comes in. He tells Derek that he's decided to ask his lady to marry him and asks for advice about how to word his proposal. Macon sees them together and misinterprets the situation. Since Macon is still harboring the feeling of not being good enough for Derek, he assumes the handsome man with Derek must be the man Derek is referring to in his notes. Before either of them see him, Macon leaves the shop.

This is a pleasant story about two nerdy professors who get to know each other in a unique way. I liked that they send handwritten notes rather than e-mails. It gave it a more romantic twist. Reciting poetry in bed may not be what most people would appreciate, but for two English professors it worked. Thanks, Ari, for the cute Valentine's Day story.

NOTE: This book was provided by Dreamspinner Press for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

Ann says

Letters from Cupid is one of the sweetest, more purely old-fashioned romantic stories I've read. This was read #3 and it's become my Valentine's go-to because it gets the feel of love and what Valentine's Day is about just right for me and my normally cold dead heart. It's also refreshing to read a story set in a college about the professors with nary a frat party to be found.

Professors Macon and Derek are uber-Academics and reading the letters between Cupid and Eros give you a big clue why Macon's not getting laid on the regular but also why they are so perfect for each other. Not everyone gets off on poetry recitation as dirty talk, but if you can find the one other person who does, yay you!

Macon is a loner in his department and his colleagues just go with the assumption he is aloof and uptight when in reality, he's an introvert who's more comfortable with his stories than with casual conversation. He's a prolific writer of Southern gothic stories and his flair for the purple prose translates well when he assumed the role of Cupid for Derek. Derek and his douchebag of a boyfriend have split and Derek is in the pity party phase of relationship recovery.

Macon has always had a crush on Derek and writing to him as Cupid gives him a level of anonymity that allows him to be more courageous in his words than he would be as himself. Derek eats up the words like a starving man and writes back to Cupid as Eros. At the same time he and Macon, due to meet-cute circumstances, get to know one another so it was almost like getting two romances in one.

It was sweet to read Derek's impression of Macon as he got to know him better. Macon doesn't have a high level of self-esteem and he's very pragmatic about who he is. But, Derek's appreciation was open and honest so Macon was able to be the gothic hero wordsmith he was meant to be for the man he loved.

The two were just opposite enough to get why they would appreciate one another so much and similar

enough to believe in an HEA for them from the beginning. Letters from Cupid is nerd love done right and while the communication between the MC's may be a smidge OTT for realistic academics, it works for the characters the authors created and I'll read it again come Valentine's Day. Also, this one would make a fun audiobook *hint* *hint*.

a copy of this story was provided for an honest review

Ami says

Nice Valentine short(ish) story. I liked the fact that both men were in their 40's. Having said that, they talked (or wrote) like in 'fictional' situation rather than in real life *lol*
