



Love You So Hard

Tara Lain

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Dear Author,

I saw him at my local corner store when I stopped in for some soda after work. He was wearing that damn T-shirt and now I can't get it out of my head. I'm thirty-two years old and have never topped in my life. Guys seem to think I have a sign on my forehead that says "bottom only". The one time I asked, it didn't go well. But now it seems I see this kid, he's twenty if he's a day, everywhere, and that T-shirt text is burned in my brain. I wonder...

Can be any genre you like, and as explicit as you like. I'm not too fussy, but a first time top should be fun.

Photo Description:

The slim, taut torso of a young man from neck to hips wearing a T-shirt that says "I Would Bottom You So Hard"

Genre:contemporary

Tags:first time top, age gap, gaining self-worth, bottom you so hard, younger teacher/older student, beautiful boy

Word count:20,237

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.

Love You So Hard Details

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From Reader Review Love You So Hard for online ebook

Mandy*reads obsessively* says

3.75*

Craig is smart, good looking (at least Jessie thinks he is) and a genuinely nice guy, but his low to no self-esteem has him think he doesn't deserve the good things in life.

It takes having a promotion literally stolen from him and having an asshat insult him at a bar for him to decide he needs to do something about it.

Now he doesn't exactly do it, he has Jessie this young guy he's been lusting after at the coffee shop 'tutor' him.

Jessie has a lot of self-esteem and slowly but surely helps Craig change his life.

Now, I had a small issue with Craig thinking he has to top in order to be the person he wants to be? He seemed to think that was the changing factor for him, he kept repeating it all the time, what would a top do? And I'm a top...etc.

Not that that's wrong, I don't think that was a self-esteem solver ...I think it's more getting recognized for his accomplishment ..like making Jessie feel good and the headhunters really wanting him, practically sight unseen, and his ex-boss recognizing his value.

I sort of wished I was sure that's how he saw it, and not as the topping or bottoming making the difference. (cause Jessie certaintly didn't have an issue with self esteem and motivation and he's a bottom).

The financial disparity I can live with, although the beginning negotiations were a bit strange.

But it's a cute, sweet story and I like that he takes care and loves his mom and that Jessie is so close to his dad.

Serena Yates says

This is a very cute, very sweet story about a wonderful guy who has no idea how great he is. With its uplifting tone, simple but touching storyline, and some interesting secondary characters, it had me interested from the very start.

Craig, with all his insecurities and hidden talents just tore at my heartstrings, and the fact that he was so willing to try, rather than wallow in self-pity made him all the more likeable. He really just needed a little nudge to go out and try new things. Not recognized in his current job, feeling ignored by the world, and not getting anywhere with his life makes him realize he needs a change. Jessie's offer to tutor him is just what he needs.

Jessie is much younger than Craig, a graduate student at only twenty-one, and has clearly fallen for Craig. I think Craig must be the only one who doesn't see it! Jamie wants to be a teacher and based on how well he tutors Craig, he'll be a great one. He is compassionate, understanding, asks the right questions, and knows what is "in".

If you're looking for an uplifting story about a guy who could have it all, if he only realized he "deserves" it, if you enjoy stories about two guys helping each other out and becoming true partners, and if you're looking for a sweet, hot read, then you will probably like this free novella as much as I did.

Macky says

Short, sweet, free and its from Tara. I loved it. A great addition to the LHNB stories that are turning out to be really great. This is sexy, cute and feel good. Don't need to waffle on any more! I'm smiling and feeling the love! Thanks Tara... I've decided, I want to live in Laguna Beach. :))

Sandra says

[I expected Craig to apologize and for them to make up and move in together, but co-signing a lease? (hide spoiler)]

Deeze says

This is a sweet feel good read.

I love the whole insecure overlooked shy guy finally gets recognised for the great guy he is.

While this was a little corny in places, and the sex wasn't really to my liking, the overall feel to this fic was enough to counter act my negatives.

A 3.5 but pushed to a 4 just for the joy of it lol.

SheReadsALot says

4.25 STARS--I am so happy with the story that came from this prompt!! One of the more funnier stories about anal I've read so far this year.

Craig is 32, never topped, always is looked over and doesn't believe in himself. And it takes a delicious graduate student who loves to bottom *hard* to help him find his self worth. There's a couple of giggles, MANTEARS (brief bouts), instalove (I mean it's not a novel, people) and Cinderella HEA.

Well if Cinderella was MM contemporary. Craig would be Cinderella and Jessie the fairy godmother/prince mixed into one. And of course there's hot sex, did I mention that?

Great coupling. (Pun intended)

Elsa Bravante says

Me impresionó tanto que cuando lo terminé me di cuenta de que ya lo había leído... Lo encontré rebuscando en shorts que tenía en el kindle acumulado, y es eso, un short con mucho que abarcar y pocas páginas para profundizar. Además, me ha dado mucha grima las conversaciones sobre lo que debe ser un top y un bottom. Eso me pasa por leer sin atender a sinopsis. Al menos fue gratuita.

Nina says

It was so sweet and uplifting to see Craig finally grow up and get some balls confidence. (On the topic of balls, from the descriptions of sex acrobatics I gathered that his must be pretty long - reaching around mid-thigh. They're more like pendulums.) The romance was cute and pretty hot, but Jessie just didn't convince me as a character and as a love interest. What would you think of a guy who gets on all fours on an armchair, places his hands on his "lower cheeks" and starts wiggling his ass on the first date? Confidence is totally a turn on, but this would just creep me out, and this wasn't the only instance where Jessie got a bit too weird. Also, the sentence "Fuck meeee" - written exactly like this, though I can't remember how many e's there were - is not the way you dirty talk. But then, I think we all know that dirty talk in books is never good enough for me.

That said, the romance was cute and heartwarming and I absolutely adored Craig. I could totally relate to him. I just *huff* can't get over creepy Jessie.

Lorraine Lesar says

Craig is "Mr. Invisible" he's there, but nobody sees him! He meets Jessie, who does see him as the person he really is - sexy, caring and very, very talented. The author takes us on a journey of self discovery, development, trust and love between two very different men. This book had a real "good feel" factor about it and at 77p on Amazon UK, worth every penny!

Ingie says

3 1/2 Stars for a sweet (freebie) novella about topping and change you life to the better - I enjoyed!

Love You So Hard is a fast read short amusing story (around 100 pages). It's about doing what you longed for and never thought possible.

Craig Elson is a pretty invisible guy just over 30, who doesn't know his own worth. Neither at work, where others stealing his ideas, or private where he never takes courage and follow his own desires. He gets squashed down and is a *bottom guy* who really yearn for something else. In simple terms, a smooth gray invisible man in a boring tie that almost blend into the wall.

Most days is he drinking coffee at the same cafe. He knows that the good-looking younger guy with the

challenging t-shirt usually show up there.

The ten year younger Jessie Randall is the opposite of Craig. He is outgoing, cheeky, fashionably dressed, happy, and healthy fun, sexy and he knows his value. For some reason, he has recently taken the slightly beige man in the diner. One day when the older man looks extra distressed joins Jessie at the man's table and starts talking (and start to flirt).

Jessie sees something more in Craig and offer to teach Craig to be an excellent *Top Man*. Of course Craig say yes (...YES!!!!) to the guy he is dreaming (wet) about.

~ No one can deny that Craig succeeded outstandingly well on his first try. *Top Point* from me...and Jessie! ~

But to make Craig a little more colorful (.. yes, maybe whole his gray-beige life) believes Jessie some changes are necessary. I agreed and cheered.

“We'll deal with *those* things a bit later. No guy who gives a blo**ob like that should wear white boxer shorts.”

Jessie is a wonderful good-hearted, kind, sugar cube. I just want to hug him because he managed to do a miracle. This story made me happy, cuddly and glad. A perfectly simple, maybe a bit predictable, "bluntly" romance for romance-hungry readers who like a little yummy heat.

They are so cute together and Craig ... yes, he takes courage and grows much. ~ And what an excellent *Top* he becomes.

‘He lowered Jessie into the big, ugly, super-comfortable, brown recliner neither of them had been able to given up when they moved in.

“Celebrating our anniversary, baby?”

Craig nodded. "This chair is the first place I ever topped you."

Sure there are maybe one or two things to express opinions about, but why be so picky? This IS a lovely "fairy tale" to make life a little more enjoyable. ...and colorful! - Recommended when you just want to be entertained for a moment. I enjoyed.

...And maybe even better to hear, *Love You So Hard* is for free here:
<http://www.mmromancegroup.com/2637>. Puch, jump over and get it!!

I LIKE - clever, funny and very sweet

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*...a fun strip about topping* (view spoiler)

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## **Gigi says**

Another enjoyable addition to the LHN collection, but not as fabulous as many I've already read. But I think it says a lot that these free reads are better than 75% of the drivel we are paying for now-a-days.

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## **Heller says**

4.75

I loved this story and the prompt picture is fantastic.

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## **Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says**

[(going from not even being an official couple to co-signing a lease??) (hide spoiler)]

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## **Mona says**

**An amusing, smexy and cute read...it was HARD not to love this book!!**

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## **Karen says**

Really cute story but just a little too dependent on the sex for my taste...although, I can't deny it was hot...vary, vary hot. Full review to follow soonish!

*Get ready for more of the sweet and adorable...*

When Craig Elson gets passed over for a much deserved promotion it's the straw that breaks the camel's back and Craig takes it as a sign that he maybe should take a little vacation after all he hasn't done so in years so he's got the time and then some.

One of the first things that Craig does is he goes to his favorite coffee house so he can get a look at the 'hottie' with the tee shirt that says "I would bottom you so hard." something that no one's ever let Craig do and something that Craig spends a lot of times wanting to do with said hottie (otherwise known as Jesse). When Jesse approaches Craig the last thing that Craig figured would happen is that he'd ask Jesse to tutor him, but that's what he does...he pulls on his big boy pants and ask Jesse to tutor him on how to be a top and what follows is a warm, sweet, sometimes funny adventure of Jesse and Craig as Jesse helps Craig to become the top that he knows he can be.

First off I loved Jesse...he was just too freakin' cute for words...like this guy was seriously adorable and

perky...I don't think I could handle him first thing in the morning...just sayin'. Also on a random thought here, that I'm hoping someone who's more familiar with this authors works than I am can clarify for me. I'm somehow feeling like maybe we've met Jesse before...say, in one of the Laguna Beach stories? If you have a definite answer for me on this feel free to let me know in the comments, thanks.

And then there was Craig, I liked him...a lot! He was just so lacking in self esteem but he was also such a sweet guy. I loved how he was with his mom and really with everyone. What I didn't love was how some people took advantage of his sweet and unassuming nature but hey, what goes around comes around and I think in the end everyone got what they deserved especially Craig and Jesse...because they got each other.

Sadly what took this from 'I love it' to 'it was ok' for me was the sex...I just felt like Jesse and Craig's relationship was too dependent on it and I know all things considered this probably seems a bit weird since their relationship started out with Craig asking Jesse to teach him how to be a top...but, I guess I was hoping that the sex would ease back and there would be a bit more focus on an actual relationship developing...I don't maybe, I'm just being to picky or quirky here but still at the end of the day it's how I felt.

I fully realize that while 'Love You So Hard' isn't a complicated or profound story, it is a sweet, fun and totally feel good story about discovering how to be the best person you can be and finding love along the way and in reality that rarely happens between the sheets so as fun and sweet as it was this left me feeling a little disappointed.

From a purely audio perspective though this was my second chance to enjoy the narrations of Ry Forest and I have to say his narration was absolutely delightful. I truly can't wait to see what's next with this narrator and will definitely be keeping an eye out for his name on future audio books.

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An audio book of 'Love You So Hard' was graciously provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

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