



Tomfoolery

Lou Harper

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Ben Hammond is a nerdy computer programmer with a yen for anime, comic books, and the handsome stranger he keeps seeing at the coffee shop. As he's working up the nerve to ask the guy out, he has no idea that getting his man is only half the story.

Tomfoolery Details

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Author : Lou Harper

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From Reader Review Tomfoolery for online ebook

Vio says

4.25 stars

A very entertaining and delightful romance! I loved it both Ben and Tom are absolutely adorable, but the standout is Rupert the big fat furball a true sweetheart with hidden depths. The clever dialogue had me cracking up with laughter and the one liners are unforgettably brilliant! Everything about this story clicked for me it was fantastic can't recommend it enough.

ttg says

A very fun (and often very funny) short story that has the extra bonus of being free to download.

I won't spoil the story, but I really enjoyed the twists in this short about Ben, a nerdy and overworked programmer making mobile games (for a company that sounds very similar to Disney.) Ben starts to find some strange changes around his place--things being moved, milk cartons that seem lighter--but he can't figure out what's going on, and he starts to wonder if he's going crazy. Then he runs into a hot guy at a café and works up the courage to ask him out. And things get stranger from there...

A funny and light read, and has the hallmarks of Harper's easy dialogue style. (view spoiler) Recommended, especially if you're looking for a quick, light read to end your day. (It's about 9,000 words.)

Also, totally dug the shout-out to the late Satoshi Kon's Paprika, a very imaginative film.

This story can be downloaded for free from Goodreads, Amazon, Smashwords, and ARe.

Alison says

This was a fun and free short story. I enjoyed it.

Mandy*reads obsessively* says

3.5-4*

Light, funny, fuzzy cute story.

When Ben an overworked computer programmer finally gets a date with Tom, a guy he's been lusting after he thinks things are working out well for him.

But he's in for a surprise!

Tailtiu says

Another case of don't judge a book by his cover.

It's sweet, funny, free! and I would love to read more about this guys Meow

Ami says

This short (and FREE!!!) story is totally enjoyable. I just read Lou Harper's Hanging Loose and I think this author has a penchant for writing day-to-day /ordinary activities as engaging and well, not boring. From Ben working on his computer program, talking to Rupert -- his fat orange tabby cat, which is named after Rupert Grint --, to having conversation and arranging date with Tom, a cute guy he's been crushing over for a few weeks. It feels natural and like you read a story of a friend.

There's a paranormal element/twist to this story. Anything else I say will definitely ruin everything. Let's just say that it results in an adorable ending.

My favorite line ... please do not click before you read the story yourself, because this sentence will tell you the twist (that is why I put it behind spoiler tag); but I totally in love with it, so I need to put it down because I think it's witty and charming :)

SPOILER CONTENT!

(view spoiler)

Lou Harper says

This is a self-published free 9000 word short story, written for the one year anniversary of the blog Coffee and Porn in the Morning. It is available for free pdf download at the site.

It now can be downloaded here as pdf, and on Smashwords and ARe as Mobi, Epub, and Pdf. All free.

It's now also available on Amazon for free.

Y. Correa says

Let me start by saying... What a cute story! I really enjoyed it! From the get go the humor trapped me.

Ben, a self-proclaimed nerd who works as a code designer for a gaming company is all alone and submerged in work that never seems to end. His only companion is his cat. Rupert. Rupert is a fun, sweet, mega friendly fat orange cat. The best kind.

Day after day Ben goes on with his mundane life, working then going home to Rupert. But, something is amiss. Ben feels like he's losing his mind. Whenever he's home, due to his slight case of OCD he notices that things are moved, missing and just not where he'd left them.

Suspicious that someone must be getting into his home he sets up a camera in order to entrap the culprit. A camera that doesn't last long, because Rupert makes it a point of fiddling with it.

Meanwhile, Ben keeps seeing a guy at his local lunch spot that has him frazzled: he's handsome and mysterious. Ben is at a loss as to how to start up a conversation with him. To his surprise Tom (the cutie) approaches him.

Love is in the air, work seems not so bad, life isn't as bad as it had originally seemed.

Tomfoolery is a very enjoyable read. One that certain to entertain and make you laugh.

I definitely rate this a 5 out of 5 stars!

SheReadsALot says

This is my first story by this author. It was cute, PG-13 fun. It was free so I thought why not? I was pleasantly surprised. It is a story about Ben, a nerdy guy who works, works, works with no time for love. This is where Tom, his secret crush steps in. The blurb is pretty accurate. If you're in need for a novella to read in between reading books, Tomfoolery is for you.

Deeze says

Absolutely purrrfect lol.

This sweet simple story left me smiling and feeling all warm and fuzzy inside lol.

Thanks Vio for the rec. Your really getting to know my tastes lol.

Simsala says

[image error]

Smith Barney says

This was f'ing cute..and what a f'ing fertile-fabulous imagination. Surprisingly cohesively-entertaining for such a super short story.

All this little gem was missing was some additional feral adjectives of a sexual provocation..and it would have been a f'ing knockout.

Serena Yates says

This is such a fun story! Not quite sure what was going on at first, I read on because the way Ben talks about what happens to him is just so funny. He believes he's going insane, but the way he thinks about everything and gives perfectly sane reasons for why he thinks he's losing it is hilarious.

I can't really say much more without spoiling the surprise. It's an unusual paranormal story, and a very nice balance between humor and romance. If you're looking for a fun read with some very sweet moments, and if you enjoy characters with a distinctive voice, give this free read a try. I really liked it.

Anke says

4.5 stars

Such a cute read! Although - yes - the plot was rather obvious from the beginning, nevertheless it was fun to read. Especially Ben's humor was too funny. I'm looking forward to reading more by this author.

Tam says

This review can be found at [Brief Encounters Reviews](#).

This is an absolutely delightful little read, and I'm not entirely sure how I can review it without giving away spoilers. I will try because the twists are truly what makes the story so fun. Part of this story for me was the appeal of Ben's job. He works for a computer gaming company and is in a total frenzy trying to get a game ready to coincide with a movie release, however the powers-that-be have no clue how gaming works and are making everyone crazy and forcing over-time. I have to say since I've started working with gaming companies I find stories in this setting far more interesting than I would have a year ago.

Anyway, Ben is getting burned out, he hasn't dated in forever, and it's just him and the stray cat that adopted him. Lately the stress of work is doubly getting to him, as he's starting to notice weird things at home. Things moved in the bathroom, suddenly less milk in the fridge, just little things, but with Ben's OCD organized life, he's pretty sure he's going insane like his elderly uncle did. I was pulled into the story right away and Ben tries to cope with the rising panic that he is losing it, and yet rationalize how things could have gotten moved.

Besides being stressed and worried he's going insane, he's been eyeing a hot guy he's seen at a local deli and finally they make a connection and end up on a date at a weird animated movie, but the guy isn't scared off despite Ben's affinity for all things nerd. Ben really likes Tom and it seems to be mutual, and things are going well despite the even more ramped up stress at Ben's job. However Tom has a secret and when it's revealed, Ben is sure Tom was just using him, especially when Tom lets slip that Ben is "not his type". Ouch.

It doesn't take too long before they work things out, and Ben lets Tom explain, but it's just really an adorable little story that had me smiling and a few chuckles at time along with the suspense of what was happening in Ben's apartment. So a perfect choice for a quick pick-you-up at lunch or between more angst-ridden reads. And it's free, so you'd be foolish not to snap it up.
