



What Remains of Us

J.H. Knight

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Dear Author,

It's been a year since the earthquake. With San Francisco burning around us, we were sure we'd lost everything. With nothing left to lose, we turned to each other. The world didn't end that day after all, and we've lived every day since rebuilding— together. We're finally ready to tell our story.

Photo Description:

Two men in early 20th century clothing are standing outdoors together. One has his arm around the other's shoulder and he's tweaking his mustache.

This story was written as a part of the M/M Romance Group's "**Love's Landscapes**" 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.

This story may contain sexually explicit content and is **intended for adult readers**. It may contain content that is disagreeable or distressing to some readers. The M/M Romance Group strongly recommends that each reader review the General Information section before each story for story tags as well as for content warnings.

What Remains of Us Details

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From Reader Review What Remains of Us for online ebook

Audrey says

Lovely historical setting in 1906 San Francisco. *Why does that date sound so familiar?*, you may wonder. The 1906 earthquake destroyed much of the city, and this story centers around those events. We meet the MCs shortly before it and see how they develop a rapport. It's not until they're tested by the disaster and what follows that they strengthen and cement their bond. I really enjoyed this story and had the pleasure of beta-reading it in earlier stages.

Recommended for ALL readers, not just historical lovers, because the characters ring true, and the historical setting, while nicely atmospheric, isn't something in which the story gets tangled up, either.

Lilia Ford says

I almost never cry reading books, but I did for this maybe because my city has undergone its own traumatic disasters, though nothing on this scale.

Favorite passages: "They had both shed their waistcoats and shirts at some point earlier and were now trudging through the stifling heat in nothing but their undershirts and trousers, their suspenders hanging down about their waists. In a vague way, Martin was aware of how odd it was to see so many people on the city streets, disheveled and half-dressed, but it also seemed fitting. Their beautiful city had been torn apart, and apparently, so had her citizens."

"He hoped someone, a mile or so up the road, would do the same for his girls if they didn't make it there on time."

Beautiful and touching. I just loved this. Ten stars.

Vanessa North says

In few words, J.H. Knight manages to turn a day of horror into a day of hope, show us the triumph of the human spirit, and write a sweet love story too. Loved it.

Sunny says

3.5

This was so good! Sweet characters, a setting that felt very authentic, and a fascinating glimpse into the past. There were so many great details, and the care taken to make this story true to the time period was obvious. The romance takes a back seat to dealing with the aftermath of the earthquake, but it's all so well done.

Many thanks to the author for sharing this story with us.

Fritz42 says

A period piece, set in San Francisco right before the big earthquake. Martin meets Hugh at a garden party and their connection is set. They meet a few days later for dinner and hit it off so well, they spend the night just talking. What starts out so well, turns horrific when the earthquake happens. Martin and Hugh work together to help others as they make their way to Martin's home to find his family.

This was an absolutely wonderful story, even set in these dire circumstances. I couldn't help but love both Martin and Hugh. Both are gentle and kind men, trying to find someone that they can care for. The secondary characters, namely Martin's mother and four sisters, are wonderful. Each of their strong personalities are unique to that character and are described so well through their actions and their dialogue. No wimpy females in this family, and I can't help but love them all.

I appreciated the ending and the epilogue that let me know how everyone turned out. This will definitely be one of my favorite historical m/m romance stories.

Anna K?avi?a says

Well written story set in 1906, San Francisco.

Likeable main and supporting characters.

Verity says

This is a wonderful historical romance based during the San Francisco earthquake of 1906. I loved that J.H interwove some lighter fun elements into what could have been an extremely emotional and heavy story so that it left me with a sense of happiness and hope rather than depressing me.

I was happy that we got to see them connecting before the earthquake, as sometimes, I don't believe in romance that happens during a stressful time, will actual last the distance once the normal returns. I loved seeing Roger and Martin work so well together during the earthquake, I cried reading about the tragedies of that day. I cheered for Martin's mother and his sisters and how strong they all were and how they refused to let the tragedy around them affect how they acted or treated people.

I would have preferred (view spoiler). Thank you for the Epilogue J.H. it gave me a sense of completion with these incredible characters.

Adrianamae, Marco's fan says

3.5 - just lovely.

K says

Historical story set in Chicago and starting in the days before the big earthquake of 1906. Martin, a native of the city who lives in town, though his widowed mother and four sisters live in the family home on Nob Hill, meets Hugh, a transplant from Virginia who has recently arrived in town. As the pair go on what is effectively their first date the earthquake strikes, leaving the two men to work together to help save family and strangers alike. This felt very much within the period, and had the benefit of some wonderfully strong female characters as well. Really well done story.

Julio Genao says

pretty nice.

i was bothered that the attraction went from "i like" to "i love" before the long day of shared tragedy even arrived.

such a thing is ample excuse for the alchemy of spirits, and requires no special finessing to get right.

instead, the intimation of love is made the second time they hang out, which nipped at me as i read.

the epilogue, as well, left me irritable. i dislike roll-call endings, at least as deployed like this.

in between, though...

some very good writing. i couldn't put it down.

i am very familiar with the period and the day in question, having had a horror for it since i was a kid; i found those scenes to be kinetic, and moving, and very compelling.

and the brooklyn hipster mustaches hardly bothered me at all ;-)

Sadonna says

Really enjoyable historical fiction that takes place during the great earthquake in San Francisco in 1906. I really liked all the characters and the way the story unfolded as Hugh and Martin meet and then share that unbelievable day together. Beautifully told. I look forward to reading more from this author.

Tamara (?) says

[

(hide spoiler)]

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

3.5 stars

What Remains of Us is a historical M/M romance set during the great San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906.

Two young men meet the evening before the earthquake and forge a bond in the aftermath of the tragedy.

What I liked most is that the actual earthquake wasn't portrayed as being terribly dramatic: the ground cracked, windows shattered, buildings shook. And then there was silence. The horror came after, with the burning and screaming and panic.

I never got a good handle on Martin and Hugh as individuals, but I understood their longing for a relationship and their quiet love. Martin's sisters and mother were wonderful and complex characters.

Overall, this short story surprised me in a good way. There was no steam, a couple, short fade-to-black scenes, but the story felt true to its time, and there was happiness to be found for Hugh and Martin.

Viv Ross says

3.5 Stars

I don't really do historical...unless it goes far enough back in history (long story). Anyway, I found this story delightful. ^_^

Vivian says

3.5 stars

Charming, restrained love story in early twentieth century San Francisco. Loved the small details like the Kodak Brownie camera and family shenanigans in this romance. Really nice historical offering.
