



Right Hand Red

Danni Keane

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At four years old, Ben 'Beanie' Hunter leads a charmed life: a life filled with cuddles, chocolate biscuits and dressing up to play Aladdin with his teddy bears. And it all gets even better when he shares the fun with his new best friend, Felix, even though Felix doesn't care about Aladdin.

In fact, scrappy, foul-mouthed Felix doesn't care about anything much, except looking after the class snail, Bob, and playing with Beanie in the magic kingdom they create together. He might even like the kisses and cuddles Beanie gives him as they play, although he's not about to admit it.

As they grow older and the affection shared between the two boys changes into something much deeper, so do Felix's fears that Beanie will leave him. But Beanie is determined to prove to Felix that he will love him forever, and what better way than recreating the magic kingdom they once shared?

This short story can be downloaded for free as part of the Goodreads M/M Romance Group's 'Love Has No Boundaries' event, at

<http://www.mmromancegroup.com/?p=28553>

Right Hand Red Details

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From Reader Review Right Hand Red for online ebook

Amy says

A very sweet “coming of age” tale of Ben and Felix. It follows them from nursery school all the way through college. Very likeable characters, a charming storyline and a HEA. Loved it!

Sheziss says

Seriously cute. I only can say awwwww and owwwww after reading this adorable short story in one sitting.

Promise me we will be best friends forever.

Promise me you will never leave me.

Promise me you won't turn into goo...

Too many promises! Will Little Beanie be able to keep track on all those promises? Such a big responsibility! Or is it? If you like it then it's not such an ignominious task, right?

Needless to say, this is too adorable for words. We meet the characters when they are 4 years old and we follow them until they finish school. Love at first sight and together their whole lives, which, IMHO, is the best thing that could happen to someone. I love that the story is focused on the MCs and that there are very few secondary ones. We have Beanie's mother and the pre-school teacher, who in fact only says three phrases in the whole story. Very slow-burning (as far as a shortie can be) and exciting to see.

Recommended by my mother (<-She rocks).

Sheri says

I was snatched. I was captivated. I was charmed from the first paragraph.

I find it astonishing that SO much can fill 50 pages.

Seriously, I am simply amazed.

It was chocked full of emotion and utter completeness.

How can this be?

It must be a gift, a rare talent that few authors possess.

Danni Keane is now on my radar, and I can't wait for more.

Fate brings Ben and Felix together in pre-school. A magical force pulls them to one another. Destiny puts on a pretty damn good show. They are unaware, but they need each other.

They became friends. Best friends. Forever friends.

I can't tell you how much I enjoy friends to lovers, and this is crème de la crème of friends to lovers.

I fell along with them, I melted as they melted, and I was left a puddle....

a puddle of goo.

I wept. I swooned. I wanted to beg for more, yet I was totally content.

It was absolutely enchanting.

You've got nothing to lose, except missing out on this sweet charming tale. What a shame that would be.

It may be free, but its value is near the top of my collection.

I assure you it's more than just a romp on a mat with a spinner and colorful circles; it's a gorgeous 'promise' you won't want to slip by.

4.5 gorgeous-gooalicious-gratis stars

Mandy*reads obsessively* says

Another wonderful contribution to the LHNB event.

Ben and Felix have been the best of friends since pre-school.

As four year olds they swore they would stay best friends forever and they have kept that promise through thick and thin.

Ben has a nice home life and Felix doesn't, but it isn't really more than hinted at.

But along the way the friendship turns to love.

This really is a sweet feel good read and I enjoyed it very much, I just wish it had been longer, I would love to see them even further down the road into their future together.

Ami says

Quite sweet friends-to-lovers story; and fit the prompt perfectly. The part with Felix taking care of Bob the snail was the best and it broke my heart with what happened afterwards. Felix ended up still a bit mystery to me though, and I wish I knew more about his life since he was definitely had more emotional baggage than Ben.

Though I must say, since the story was written with 1st person POV, the beginning part, where Ben was only four years old, made him one of the most coherent and thoughtful four-years-old boys I've ever encountered in fiction. I don't even remember my thoughts when I was four years old!!

On other note, this was my first experience with Danni Keane's writing -- I liked it. So maybe I would check her other stories (since Macky seemed to like Danni Keane's so much)

Trisha Harrington says

I have to start off by saying that anyone who doesn't like this must be mad! It's short, and I know some people don't like short stories. But it's a freebie and so fricken cute. I am serious people. This book was so cute. I loved the whole thing.

Felix and Ben meet on their first day of school. Best friends from day one their relationship develops into

something very strong. Felix was possessive. Even at four years old, there was a possessiveness to him. His childhood, though, was not the best. Ben and Ben's mum looked after and loved him despite that.

From their first meeting to their first kiss, I knew this was going to catch me, and I was right. I was so happy I had the chance to read this book. The boys were so cute, and the story was really sweet. It's YA and the two MC's were perfect for the story and as a couple. Danni Keane does the YA genre really well.

There are some lighter moments. Some very innocent moments and just a really lovely story here. Twister, the game, even plays a part in the story as well as Aladdin. I was smiling so hard during those scenes and I was wanting more.

I highly recommend this story. I promise you, most people will love this. It's too adorable not to love.

Sara says

I have said it maybe once or twice how wonderful the stories from this group are and this is just another to add to that pile. OMG! This was so clever, so brilliant, so heart-wrenching and such a beautifully told story of young love. Of a forever love.

I have changed my mind about turning into goo; let me first say this. I want to be goo. I. Want. To. Be. Goo.

Ben and Felix, Beanie and Fee-Lix; I adored them. They were so sweet and so perfect from day one at Nursery to day one at University. Their friendship, their love their devotion and every single one of their firsts were read with my hand on my chest as I took deep breaths.

The picture prompt, I loved how it was used throughout the story and how it was meaningful to both boys. I will never look at a game of Twister without hearing the chant of *right hand red, right hand red...please, please, right hand red* in my head on repeat. From the first word to the last, this was a brilliant story, a fantastic read and a prime example of why I read.

I now have a bad case of Insta love for the author. I will conclude my review of gush and go promptly turn into goo.

Macky says

Another fabulous story from the LHNB series and what an absolute cracker. I loved this story about two boys who meet at nursery and become best friends then over their many years of friendship together, eventually lovers. It was just lovely. I laughed at the beginning when Ben first tells his mum about Felix and I cried when Bob the snail met his gooey end but really I was crying for Felix who won my heart because of his crappy home life and how he needed to be loved as a little boy should and I adored Ben (Beanie) because of his utter love and devotion to his tough but underneath hurting BFF. This is a story of true love and its awesome. The naked Twister fits perfectly into the story and now I can't wait to download it so I can keep it to read again. Thank you Danni for this super story. Another favourite.

Vivian says

Beshert...destined to be, "the one"

Probably one of the most romantic and sweet stories I've read in a long time. Felix and Beanie's journey is bumpy, funny, and amazing. I admit to being jealous. Who wouldn't want to find their beshert at that age--never have to live alone wondering. Even the trials seem less horrid when accompanied by such a blessing.

Bob made me cry and I totally would have tried the magic carpet ride.

A lovely contribution to LHN for each tear is outweighed by the laughs.

Favorite quote (I think):

Instead, I pretended his life outside of our friendship didn't exist, and if truth be told I think he pretended that too.

~~Thanks, Danni for such an amazing story for my prompt--it is a beautiful gift.~~

Kim Alan says

I foresee a strong new voice coming to the YA world of gay romance. Danni has a knack for capturing those little idiosyncrasies of youth that make her characters genuine. Ben and Felix are no exception. It appears on the surface that you're reading a light, cute little story, because of the tone. But there's a depth to Danni's characters that come out subtly but powerfully, probably more so because it's unexpected. You'll be surprised by how much these boys will worm their way into your heart.

Serena Yates says

This is a super-sweet story about two boys who meet when they're four and decide to be best friends forever. Told from Ben's point of view, we get to see how they grow up together and as they get older, the "magic" between them may change, as does their understanding of it, but it never vanishes. I loved seeing the world through Ben's eyes at four, then eight and thirteen, until the teenage years add a more physical dimension to their friendship. And the final scene, when Ben comes to see Felix in his new home, was total magic of the best kind!

Ben leads a charmed life indeed, and not just when he's four. He sees something in the slightly rough Felix few other people do. Ben's mother is a warm, supportive soul, and though Ben never explicitly says so, she probably has a pretty good idea about how close the boys become as they enter their teenage years. What's important for Ben is always Felix, and that doesn't really change. Not many words are spoken between them,

but Ben can feel what Felix needs and he is happy to give it to him.

Felix's life is a lot tougher. He may still have both a mother and a father, but neither of them are supportive, or even a real force in his life (other than a sometimes painful annoyance). Felix doesn't let many people close, he'd been hurt too many times. Ben is an exception, and Felix can be vulnerable with him. The way Felix takes care of the class pet (a snail) shows how desperate he is to love and protect those weaker than him – if he likes them or thinks they are worthy.

As strong as Felix seems to be on the outside, he is also the vulnerable one in his relationship with Ben. Always afraid Ben is going to leave him, he has no idea how impossible that would be for Ben who is all about loyalty and loves with all his heart. If you like stories about friends who become lovers without any awkwardness at all, if you enjoy reading about young men growing up, dealing with all the changes that brings yet never changing in their devotion to each other, and if you're looking for a sweet read without much angst and some wonderfully tender scenes that are age-appropriate at all stages yet passionate throughout, then you will probably like this story as much as I do. I think it's wonderful!

Exina says

Ben and Felix's friendship starts with two identical Princess Jasmine lunch boxes in nursery.

“Do you like Disney Princesses too?”

He shrugged. “No.”

My little brow furrowed. “So why did you get a Princess Jasmine lunch box?”

He shrugged again. “Because Cinderella’s a frigid bitch?”

He plonked his lunch box onto the trolley and grabbed my hand. “I’m Felix,” he said. “We’re going to be best friends forever.”

And it's exactly what they are since then and much more. Ben and Felix are inseparable and connected on a very deep level. Falling in love is inevitable.

It was amazing to witness the unwavering commitment and devotion they felt for each other.

The beautiful look of joy on Felix’s face... I wanted that beaming smile to stay there. So when to my surprise it did, I was so happy, I affectionately wrapped my arms around him, and pressed a soft kiss against his cheek. Maybe the Twister mat did have magical powers that afternoon, because instead of pushing me away as he usually did, Felix simply returned the hug and whispered in my ear, “I feel like I’m really flying, Beanie.”

Right Hand Red is a beautiful love story that follows Ben and Felix's relationship from nursery to college. I loved the last scene: Ben's gifts are so thoughtful and wonderful.

Adorable story! Highly recommended.

Originally posted on my blog on February 29, 2016.

Nina says

I just turned to goo. Completely. Melted.

I didn't even think I could possibly like a story this sweet so much, but the thing is: this is not sweetness for the sake of sweetness. This is love - the kind you dream about when you feel lonely, the kind that is pure feeling and affection and acceptance, the kind that is so all-encompassing it makes you want to cry. (I choked up, guys, I really did. idek what's going on. Might be the blood that's leaking out of me atm.) The sex - hot, tender, creative sex - was just one more demonstration of that love. I could honestly read about these little guys forever, just lose myself in an endless loop of love declarations and tenderness and memories.

You could just *feel* the love from the moment these two met, on their first day in kindergarten - a different kind of love, obviously, and one more thing I loved (jesus fuck, I think I've used the word love about a dozen times in this review. Think about it.) is the way this love changed throughout the years and just grew and grew and grew and only got better, each little boy growing into someone stronger and more accomplished because of it.

I did find one fault with the story, and it is how, at the beginning, the 4 years old MCs felt more like particularly childish adolescents.

But honestly? I don't give a fuck. Just let me float in happiness. (It says a lot about me how the best kind of romantic satisfaction I find is in books.)

R * A Reader Obsessed * says

3.5 Stars

Oh so very sweet and surprisingly sexy, as this starts with how Ben and Felix meet cute at the age of 4 and are basically inseparable from then on. Through thick and thin, they stick together and make serious promises they're determined to keep.

Definitely a friends to lovers progression, showing these two growing up and still remaining the most important part of each other's lives. Ben never fails to be the support Felix needs through the lonely, tough times he endures, and Felix gives and shares those special, vulnerable parts of himself only Ben is privy to.

Overall, touchingly intimate and a real joy to read.

Justin says

Loved it! This was the perfect combination of all my favorite story elements; lovable characters, sweet romance, humor, a little bit of s.e.x. and a HEA/HFN ending. Highly recommended, free short story!

