



Always Joey

Adelhardt H.

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Joey is forced to pair up with Jimmy for a school assignment. Too embarrassed to be seen with the school's biggest social outcast (who is also rumored to be gay), Joey agrees to go over to Jimmy's house to work on the project. Away from the scrutiny of their peers, Joey finds that he actually enjoys Jimmy's company. But Joey quickly realizes that Jimmy has developed a crush on him, and although Joey likes the attention, he doesn't want to lead Jimmy on. Will Jimmy's strong feelings ruin their newly formed friendship?

Always Joey Details

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From Reader Review Always Joey for online ebook

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

A sweet, GFY free read even though the writing felt very fan-fic-ish and amateur-hour to me. The relationship moved along pretty quickly and didn't quite seem realistic. I enjoyed it, the cute story won me over in the end, but it isn't up to publication standards.

* Endless says

[or at least Dusty accepted that Joey's gay and is mutually in love with Jimmy. (hide spoiler)]

Jeff Erno says

I really enjoyed this sweet coming out story, which I felt dealt with a reality that often is not discussed in romantic fiction. The manner and rate at which people self-identify as gay or bisexual vary from person to person. Some of us know at a very early age. Others do not make sense of their feelings until they are teens or adults. And until they reach that point, by default they identify as straight. This is because we're raised this way, conditioned to believe that one day we will meet someone of the opposite sex, fall in love, and get married.

Most YA coming out stories depict characters who have already realized they have same-sex attractions. Their coming out is merely a matter of openly admitting this truth to those around them. In this story, though, the main character identified as heterosexual through most of the narrative. He first had to come out to himself before he was able to acknowledge his orientation to others.

In truth, the portrayal in this story is far closer to reality than most of what we read. Had someone talked to me about sexual orientation when I was sixteen, I would have insisted I was straight. Although I'd known I was attracted to boys since the onset of puberty, I did not acknowledge, even to myself, that this meant I was gay. And I know people who as adults continue to deny their identity. Often they state that they do not like "labels" or they even insist they are straight in spite of the fact that they have sex or even live with partners of the same gender.

Comments about how mean Joey was to Jimmy are extremely overblown. Yeah, he was a jerk in the beginning of the story, but by the end he'd worked through his homophobia, renounced it, and publicly stood up for his openly gay friend. Rather than presenting Joey as this larger than life hero who instantly had the courage to do the right thing, the author portrayed him like a normal teen, one who wanted to do the right thing and eventually did. It just took him a while to get to that point.

The only aspect of the story I wasn't completely pleased with was the way Jimmy repeatedly came on to Joey, openly acknowledging his attraction to him in spite of Joey's insistence he was straight. At first it seemed almost predatory, and wasn't exactly in character with who Jimmy was. He actually was shy and reserved and in all likelihood he'd have waited for Joey to make the first move. The secret crush he harbored toward Joey probably would have remained secret until Joey expressed similar feelings. Even then, I imagine

Jimmy would have been cautious.

However, that being said, I do think that there are instances where a closeted guy who identifies as "straight" will openly flirt with a gay guy he finds attractive. This is what I think was being depicted here. And it was this dance that ultimately pushed Joey to a point where he had to at last be honest with himself about his identity.

Overall, I loved it.

Jess says

Ok everyone was giving this 5 stars. SO I got curious..surely the story couldnt be THAT GOOD????

I love being proven wrong (ok i do when it comes to books but not in an argument)

This story freaking rocks and everyone should read it. It made me teary at the start and then I totally and utterly fell in love with Jimmy & Joey.....TOTALLY IN LOVE WITH THEM!!!!

Sadonna says

I can't believe how much good free stuff there is out there! This is another one! Short, but so much said in so few pages. Really beautiful story - refreshing dialogue and boys with such tender hearts. Jimmy is so brave to be so honest with Joey and Joey is a little bit brave to let him. Loved the family dynamics of both sets of parents and Joey's slow realization. Really really lovely story of Jimmy and Joey. Just read it. You won't be sorry.

Nikyta *Miss Forgetful* says

I loved Jimmy. He was soooooooo cute and soooooooo honest. I fucking hated Joey. He was a douche that just kept leading Jimmy on even though he knew how much Jimmy liked him but then he still kept teasing. And shame on Jimmy for letting him. It also really pissed me off that Joey loved spending so much time with Jimmy and kept saying, "yeah, yeah we're friends" then wouldn't even acknowledge Jimmy at school. So more like 3.5 stars rounded up because it was a cute story and I did enjoy it but I still hated Joey even at the end, just a little less than I did in the beginning. Fucker.

Elci says

I love sweet reads such as this.

Edina Rose says

One of the cutest high school romances I've ever read.

Joey is cool and popular, he is liked by everyone. Jimmy is gay and an outcast and has NO friend at all. One day they are paired to work on an assignment. Joey is not happy to be paired with this unpopular, sarcastic and hostile kid. But as they work together, he discovers Jimmy is in fact a great guy, smart, funny, interesting, considerate, nice... and he is actually pretty gorgeous when he smiles.

As his friendship with Jimmy develops, Joey discover things about himself he never suspected.

This review does not do justice to the story. It is such a wonderful, super cute story. The characters seem alive and their emotional journey is totally believable.

There is lots and lots of sexual tension and some great tender moments.

Not very long, around 22300 words, it is quick and enjoyable read.

Heather C says

Super sweet freebie about 2 teenage boys falling in love. Oh yeah, and one of them is straight. Ha! How long do you really think that's gonna last?! Anyway, its an enjoyable short read that should put a smile on anyone's face. And even though it's YA-ish, it's still pretty HOT! Um, perv much?

Ami says

3.5 stars

Thanks to Edina, who recommended this to me and then managed to make it possible for me to read (yes, my service provider blocked Nifty for porn content *pout*).

I don't think I can add things that haven't said before by my friends. As a short free story, this one is pretty cute. At first Joey is awkward around Jimmy, the gay kid from school. But after working with Jimmy on their homeworks a couple of times, Joey then recognizes Jimmy's hurt and loneliness, and they used to be friends in kindergarten, so Joey remembered the happier younger Jimmy, and he decides that he will try to be friends.

I must say there is a sense of disbelief, when I read how Joey (in quite a fast time!!) changes his attitude to become VERY comfortable around Jimmy, especially when Jimmy starts to flirt and tease outrageously, even encouraging for some action on the side. But overall, it is a lovely coming-of-age story. I can even see it being published, so it will get a better editing to make it better.

♥Laddie♥ (Lee Lee) says

I LOVED this story!

Joey is the popular boy in highschool and Jimmy is the boy that everyone spurns because they suspect he's gay. The boys get thrown together for a class project and that sets the stage for one of the most heartwarming stories I've read in a while.

Always Joey broke my heart and then pieced it back together again. I loved every minute of it.

Jimmy is so vulnerable, awkward and lonely that I just wanted to hug him. What I loved most about him was that though he was lonely he was so honest about his feelings and attraction. He was brave when it came to putting himself out there. I was rooting for him to be happy.

Joey was wonderful in the way that he understood the way Jimmy needed him. It was so sweet watching him grow to care to care for and appreciate Jimmy.

Reading about Jimmy and Joey finding happiness, friendship and love with each other really touched me. The ending to the story left me feeling fulfilled and happy. I was smiling so hard and I'm still smiling now.

This is an online free read but I would have happily paid for the pleasure of reading it. If you haven't read this yet than go and read it A.S.A.P.

This story is deserving of way more than five stars. I recommend!

Lauraadriana says

Sunshine is what this story left me with. Oh man I loved this a whole lot.

Jimmy is so lonely, everyone in school hates him, because he might be gay. And Joey comes late to class one day and ends up stuck with Jimmy for a class project. Joey is a nice guy and feels bad for Jimmy, but its so AWKWARD. Jimmy looks so sad and hurt all the time and his eyes they're just so full of longing.

Joey just doesn't know how to deal with Jimmy, he says all these things about how he feels, and what he thinks. It's too much for Joey, he doesn't WANT TO KNOW!! But Jimmy's sadness is so much, and looks so deep, he wants to make it go away.

And so, despite the fear that people will find out about him hanging out with Jimmy. He knows Jimmy needs him. He wants to be there for Jimmy, not in THAT way though. He's not gay. He just wants to be friends.

But soon, he knows it's more, that boy who at first seemed nice enough, and nice looking enough, has become this beautiful breathtaking thing, that Joey wants, that he needs. He knows. It's more. They're more.

This was sweet and heartbreaking, but lovely. About finding the place where you belong, and the strength to

go and make it your own.

Go read this story, it's free! You really want to know these boys, they'll warm your heart.

Once again, I must thank the GR gods, and my GR friends for leading me to stories like this one. What a lovely Saturday evening I spent with Joey and Jimmy :O)

Bubbles Hunty Honest & Direct Opinions says

I loved this story. Joey was a douche at first but I warmed up to and fell in love with him *dreamy sigh* he was a stud muffin. I would let him stuff my muffin (after he turns 18)

This link takes you to Laddie's review. It is real and makes sense

No real what the fuck moments so I will make some up.

Maybe some Minor spoilers but this book was old school, dawg:

WTF Moment One: They research in something called a library, wtf?

WTF Moment Two: They look at porn in magazines. Instead of clicking a mouse they flip pages. You can't make a sexy rhyme out of pages (or I can't) not like "*Grab your dick and double click for porn*"

Well let me try one "*I haven't wanked in ages, better start cumming on those pages*"

Yeah see not the same at all

WTF Moment Three: They rent something called video tapes that can only be rented by physically walking into a video store and renting them? WTF?

WTF Moment Four: These video tapes have to be rewound! WTH?

WTF Moment Five: After all that work you have to physically take this pain in the big asshole back to the store where they try to get you to rent more! What a sick world these kids lived in.

Mandapanda says

3.5 stars A fun free online fic at Nifty. This tells the story of popular straight Joey and outcast gay student Jimmy. Joey is forced to work with Jimmy on a class assignment and he slowly realises there is more to Jimmy than he thought.

When they are studying at Jimmy's house, Jimmy can't seem to stop himself from blurting out his feelings and fantasies about Joey. His words come out in a breathy, *naughty* way that seems to mesmerise Joey at the same time that it disgusts him. I kind of had trouble believing a young gay kid would be so forthright to a

jock who had always treated him with disdain but I just went along for the ride and enjoyed it.

There's also a real sadness in some of their first interactions. Jimmy's lack of friends and loneliness catch at your heart. His mum's pathetic happiness that her son has a friend is quite poignant. But of course there is a HEA and the last few paragraphs are funny and satisfying as the guys (several years after) reminisce about their first meeting.

As I said I had to suspend my disbelief in some parts of the story but overall this is a short sweet *coming-of-age* which seems to be the first writing attempt by this amateur author. She shows plenty of promise and I hope she writes more. Thanks a lot to Edina Rose for the rec!

Elsa Bravante says

No sé muy bien cómo evaluarlo, es un relato corto con una redacción muy sencilla, con mucho diálogo, estilo fan fic, con unos personajes adorables pero un poco ingenua. De todas formas, un ratillo agradable.
