



Speechless

Kim Fielding

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Travis Miller has a machining job, a cat named Elwood, and a pathetic love life. The one bright spot in his existence is the handsome guitar player he sometimes passes on his way home from work. But when he finally gathers the courage to speak to the man, Travis learns that former novelist Drew Clifton suffers from aphasia: Drew can understand everything Travis says, but he is unable to speak or write.

The two lonely men form a friendship that soon blossoms into romance. But communication is only one of their challenges-there's also Travis's inexperience with love and his precarious financial situation. If words are the bridge between two people, what will keep them together?

Speechless Details

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From Reader Review Speechless for online ebook

Heller says

I loved this story! Travis and Drew were adorable! I actually got upset close to end, no spoilers, but it was heart-breaking. This is a quick, lovely read with compelling, wonderful characters. I can't recommend this one enough. I know I'll be reading it again when I need a comfort story for those blah days!

ETA: I have to upgrade this one more star. I just read another Fielding story that was just as short but didn't quite work as well as this one. There's a lot of depth here in the characters that I'm just loving so much.

Ami says

3.5 stars for the story and extra 0.5 stars for the refreshing physical imperfection of the characters.

Travis Miller is a machinist with one empty eye socket after an accident when mowing a lawn. Drew Clifton is a former novelist who suffers aphasia -- a language impairment; he cannot speak or write -- after a car accident. Two gentle but lonely souls who happen to meet and connect, in more than just physical. Even if the conversation is one-sided (since Drew cannot speak), I still feel that they 'talk' a lot and learn about each other. It's a breath of fresh air, having characters that are not always gorgeous (or if they are, still have the 'imperfection', like inability to speak).

It's quite an easy read -- there's no heavy drama or overloaded sugarness. There is a short separation before the HEA -- but it is not caused by cheating or indecisiveness, just a fact of real life gets in the way before Travis makes a decision to grab a chance on love. And in the end, you will find out that sometimes, gestures can make up for words and they can be as wonderful.

Just lovely ...

PS: The story has a cat. But the interaction with the cat is minimum. *This cat person* is slightly disappointed *pout*

Elspeth says

This was a cute short story about two wounded people that find solace and love with each other. I really enjoyed the fact that the main character didn't have a glamorous job, nor did he whine too much about the fact. He was normal and that was very refreshing. The romance was sweet and simple, a slow tumble into love instead of the abounding piles of stories that have insta-love this was also very refreshing. So all in all this was a great story to get over a book hangover with.

Deeze says

A lovely story that focuses on human emotion.

I loved how Travis and Drew came together, and how they slowly built on their feelings. I loved that these characters felt real. I really loved how even without Drew speaking, or having as much input to this story as Travis, I still felt like I knew him.

A wonderfully uplifting story, wish it could have been longer.

It did make me nostalgic to re read Dabeagle's free on line story with a similar theme, for those interested it can be found here

<http://www.dabeagle.com/storymainpage...>

Bev says

This was an endearing and romantic tale, not too sugary and really cute!! 4 stars and a big from me

Not a very long book, so this will be a shortie review. The tale stars Travis, a machinist who is blind in one eye from an accident with a lawnmower (moral...wear goggles!!)and wears an eyepatch, rather like pirates of old, and Andrew (Drew), an English novelist who has aphasia and can understand but not speak or write, which is a bit of a bummer for a novelist, but we can thank his previous boyfriend for the condition which resulted from a car accident and then the git walked out!!

Travis walks past Drew's house most days on his way home from work, and sees Drew sitting on his garden wall, playing his guitar most evenings when the weather is OK. One evening after not seeing Drew for several days because of the weather, Travis takes a chance and speaks to him, telling him how much he appreciates Drew's guitar playing...cos Travis is quite a solitary guy and has hardly any friends...of course as Drew doesn't reply, and Travis wonders why, Drew produces one of his many cards from his pocket which explains why he can't speak, and our story really begins.

Many thanks to Vlad for the recommendation.....I've already downloaded the sequel The Gig (**which is free at the mo from DSP!!**)

Sheziss says

Story first, science after (only as a curiosity).

"Blessed are those who don't talk because amongst themselves they get along."

(Mariano José de Larra)

I'm getting to know Kim Fielding's style. It seems she likes to use that formula, the formula of choosing two different misfits and bringing them together. I must admit it works, as her stories are cute and warm. It was really weird because, even though I kept in mind Drew is aphasic I still forgot Travis is one-eyed. It's funny because to date, I've known some people who lack one eye, but none with the other disability.

It's always beautiful to see how one person who can't make himself be figured out finds his better half who however manages to understand him. I think that's what real love is, but in most of the cases it's less evident, as their flaws are usually on the inside. Experiencing some external handicap is another thing altogether, and sometimes it's harder to assume.

This short is just adorable and feel-good. It was just a pleasure to read and it was delicious for my taste buds.

My knowledge of aphasias is rudimentary at best but I have a feeling this is a Broca's.

There are different areas in the brain, one who "hears", another one who "understands what you hear", another one who "moves your lips and vocal cords to talk" and all of them are connected to each other. If one of them is not right, there is one kind of aphasia or other, or maybe it's the pathway that goes from one to another which is affected. Anyway, you can "hear" well but you cannot "understand what you hear" or you can "understand what you hear" but you can't make your cords to form the words. Maybe you talk perfectly fine but what you are actually saying doesn't make sense, and you can be aware of it, or you can be not. Sometimes you don't understand a thing but you have no problem repeating the words you hear, even if you don't understand them. Or maybe you can understand and talk perfectly but you can't repeat a thing of what is being said to you.

The same with writing, maybe you can write, maybe you cannot, maybe you can understand what you write, maybe you don't. Maybe you don't understand a written word but you can copy it.

It's a real mess. It's normally due to strokes or traumatic brain injuries, one cerebral artery doesn't supply with blood a certain area and the cells suffer/die.

I'm strangely glad the author came ahead of me and answered a question I had on the tip of my tongue: Why not using sign language? She was quick and said: it's too close to be a language to use when you have this aphasia, so it's useless to try to learn it. A candy for the author for her providence.

More stuff if you are an inquisitive person:

(view spoiler)

Bookwatcher says

SWEEEEET ROMANCE! With absolutely no angst... it's just loooooove and a remarkable couple!

The story will be told by Travis... walking home everyday after work Travis will see a man, sitting and playing a guitar... that's Drew.

After a lot of pondering (like two pages, lol) he will decide to risk... a direct contact... and... the romance will begin!

It's a short story and I read it soooo quickly. Probably because it's short, but let's not ignore also another factor... how pleasant the reading was for me! It's a sweet romance, and certainly if you are searching for a quick but intense love story read it... and beware... Travis and Drew's love story will conquer your heart, and for a while you will see both as they are... perfect... in their imperfections... they are just... perfect!

5 stars

Mandy*reads obsessively* says

Despite what both MC's are dealing with, in Drew's case a very real physical disability that makes it impossible to keep being a writer and isolates him in society and Travis's eyepatch, shyness and recurring unemployment, this was not a angst difficult read.

It was almost like a breath of fresh air, two pretty much normal guys, with issues, no on page sex, sweet read, but not diabetic sweet.

Helle says

Thank you Kynthos for the gift :-) Love it <3 Merry Christmas with family, friends, love, happiness and laugh *Happy* *Hugs*

A cute story about that love will come and you will have a second chance to find love, that your disability are not a hindrance. That your soulmate will understand you in many ways and that fighting for that love, will give you both happiness, love, family and new hope. I wish this book was longer so I could meet and see Travis and Drew some more, to hear more about who they are and what other dreams they have.

I love the story <3 Love Drew and Travis <3 <3 <3 More please :-)

A Girl Has No Name says

2.5 stars rounded up to 3

Rating *Speechless* feels kind of hard; I definitely liked the blurb and the whole idea behind the story.

Travis - a blue collar worker who is willing to sacrifice his personal life for his work out of fear to slip back into unemployment - finds joy in passing a handsome guitar player on his way home. He is looking forward to this particular moment of the day and is always sad when bad weather keeps the beautiful stranger away.

When he finally gives in and talks to the mysterious man, he finds out that **Drew suffers from aphasia** - he can understand everything Travis says without having been able to talk or to write himself.

I loved the way these two characters interacted, but somehow the whole story moved way too fast. I kept missing background information and I really believe that the whole concept of the story would have worked way better in a slightly longer work. I read in several reviews, that these two characters had their respective appearances in other Kim Fielding books, but having read any of them so far, **I was unable to really get into the characters!**

I still loved Kim Fielding's writing talent and I will definitely have a look at the second very short part of the series hoping to find out a little more about Drew and Travis.

Vio says

This was so good, what I loved the most was both Travis and Drew weren't perfect or handsome, they had a bit more going for them, substance and character that made them feel more alive. Another bonus they didn't let the physical obstacles stand in the way when it came to the crunch. Oh and Elwood was adorable too bad he took a back seat to make way for the guys! Ami says it all much more eloquently in her review.

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

I find psychology and brain disorders to be a very interesting field so I was immediately drawn to the premise of this book. A man with aphasia (Drew) struggling to live and find love? I'm in. And it did not disappoint. I adore how the book was told from Travis' point of view. It was interesting how we, as the readers, were left to also interpret Drew's actions. The writer didn't take the easy way out and place us in Drew's head. The book was drama-free, sweet, and very artfully done. It was very short but worth the money spent to buy it. A great read.

Laura says

I want to hug this story and never let go.

Love, humor, T-Birds, Supernatural shout outs, and Anarchy in the UK! What's not to love here? :D

There are so many ways to communicate in this world. Hand shakes, winks, waves, and words. Some forms just force us to look and listen a bit more than others. Words, touches, facial expressions, music, and silence. Kim Fielding's *Speechless* showcases them all! A warm, open, heartfelt tale with love and romance thumping and pumping in every page, gesture, and beat. Travis' honest, straight forward, lonely voice swept me in at word one. Charmed me from head to toe!

Andrew "Drew" Clifton and Travis Miller found each other in this world. Two men forced to alter how they viewed the world and how they moved through it. Life's cruel sense of unfairness hit them hard. But with courage and strength, Travis and Drew got back up and kept right on fighting with an "I'm not a bloody idiot" attitude and independence. God, I fell hard and fast for these two! Fate, kismet, Cupid—call it whatever you want, but when Travis happened by Drew's porch and looked up...both of their lives and hearts changed forever. Drew cannot speak or write, so these two found a language all their own.

"Sometimes Travis felt almost hypnotized by those long, strong fingers and those ever-moving eyebrows. And, oh God, that full lower lip...."

Shoulder bumps, hand holding, songs, gasps, and groans---the way Drew and Travis connected and reached out to each other is unforgettable. The way Ms. Fielding captures their romance on the page is unforgettable. Such a warmhearted, *sigh* inducing read. Walks, dancing, cuddling, sharing the newspaper over coffee....there were so many moments that made me smile. I could feel the glow and warmth in every kiss, fluffy towel, and guitar strum. One of the most romantic reads I have experienced in a long time.

One personal sidetrack before I go. :) I am a walker. Every city, street, or corner contains a distinct flavor or energy. Smells, sounds, and secrets to explore. If you look, you will see and feel it all as you walk by or in it. I love to be in it! The way a neighborhood can open up and share its secrets and people with you is captured here with huge love. Ms. Fielding nailed that energy and magic of walking through the world.

I could say more, but I won't. Why can't Drew talk? Can their relationship survive the bumps in life? Come see and listen for yourself. An instant favorite for me that I will read again and again.

Nick Pageant says

Very quick read about two guys with some extra challenges finding love. I'm a total sap when it comes to these sorts of stories and Kim Fielding does them really well. Recommended when you've got an hour to kill and want to feel warm and cuddly.

Sofia says

This was a beautiful short. All the angst in the story had already happened away in the past so we are left with two lonely survivors upon whom fortune smiled one day and they found each other.

Loving here means:

Drew seeing Travis, not just the façade but what Travis is inside.

And

Travis hearing Drew even though he was silent.

At first I could not understand how aphasia works, how a person could read but not write, hear but not speak. I came to an understanding of sorts by seeing that Drew had an output problem rather than an input one.

Although I always want more of characters I like, I think that the length of this novella was good considering that there was no other plot than the relationship

A tribute to Elwood - a good dude
