



# The Art of Touch

*Dominique Frost*

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## **The Art of Touch** Dominique Frost

"The Art of Touch" is a modern love story about Jared Hamilton, the brusque and no-nonsense director of a famous law firm, and Kyle Washburn, a cheeky and irreverent massage therapist.

In a tale of opposites attract, Kyle and Jared clash words and egos. Sparks fly, and they find themselves increasingly attracted to each other. But the course of true love never did run smooth, and if he wants this new relationship to work, Jared must learn how to be vulnerable again...

## **The Art of Touch Details**

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# From Reader Review The Art of Touch for online ebook

**Ayanna says**

So, I actually went and watched Teen Wolf since it seemed a lot of stuff that turned out to be p2p that I liked were Teen Wolf fanfics. My comments are below...  
kind of far below..

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Words cannot describe how sad I was when it ended. D: I want more!

It was beautiful. Absolutely beautiful. Inane, witty, heart-wrenching, profound, and ajdsfkajsd;lgkah

This calls for a squee

EtA:

Okay, what is this? Why are all these stories I end up liking P2P?

And why does it seem like they're all Teen Wolf? Do I need to watch this series? I think I might have to.

Removing 2 stars because it's P2P (which makes me think of BitTorrent cuz peer to peer...)

\*sigh

I'm sad.

## **reread eta (after watching Teen Wolf):**

Honestly, I don't get it. I don't see how anyone could have gotten this from Teen Wolf at all. I mean, those characters in that were so flat Rosencrantz and Guildenstern seem like round characters.

I also would like to say here that I have no idea how anyone could ship Derek and Stiles from watching that show. There was nothing there. There was more between Derek and Scott than there was between Derek and Stiles, and Scott was probably the only one who I actually couldn't see with anyone other than Allison. Seriously, I can't see Derek and Stiles having realistic interactions at all. I mean, there were maybe a couple of encounters in the show, but they were so obviously forced that there was nothing there. It was cold and sexless and the epitome of platonic interactions. I don't even think they particularly like each other, not because of UST, but because the entire show revolved around Scott. As I said, you saying Derek's got an unrequited crush on Scott would make a lot more sense than stuffing Derek with Stiles.

I have no idea how anyone could pull enough from the show to create anything fanfic-wise.

Then again, I skimmed the show pretty severely.

Still, I didn't get the feeling that the characters from this were missing backstory when I first read it and now, having watched everything that is currently out (to season 3 ep 5), I still don't get the feeling these are ripped from the show. As I said, though, my regard for the show is pretty low in the characterization department. (And what's the deal with Derek? Why is he so useless in the show? I mean, there's shitloads of room for development there. That dude's like walking angst-fodder.)

If anything, I thought the characters as defined by the show were mere archetypes at most. They weren't so much real characters as character outlines (at least, anyone other than Scott and Allison and occasionally Stiles were. Jackson was just a plot device...oh wait. other characters had actual character. Like the grandpa dude. and the father dude, sometimes).

I dunno. Maybe it's because I empathize with Jared so much. I'm really socially awkward and those who know me know I suspect I probably rate on the sociopathic spectrum and these socially awkward, but endearingly clueless characters really, really appeal to me.

Some of the phrasing's really weird and could be changed, but those are mostly descriptive-y stuff. It's got bits of randomness and weirdness that I like because I'm like that (You see? It's not just me).

It's also clever because it doubles as the sleep-deprived thing (another thing I tend to chronically be).

In summary, I guess I don't have that much problem with this being p2p because the show doesn't actually present a character so much as a character type for Derek, and to manage to make him and Stiles interact in a not-weird way seems like a feat worthy of any wordsmith.

Besides. Jared is too inane to be Derek. Derek's the strong, silent type. Useless, but mostly empty when he's not being useless and pretending not to be useless.

\*sigh

I wanted Derek to be so much more BA.

I feel like Derek *could* have been so much more BA, even without detracting focus from Scott. It's like the writers were scared Derek would dominate if they made him BA so they overcompensated and made him useless instead.

He is by far the most useless Alpha I have ever seen. He gets his ass kicked regularly and has no discernible motivation other than the canned revenge schtick the writers tacked onto him (poor guy).

Also, Kyle's a lot more (refreshingly) snide and conniving than Stiles is. He's more a character instead of a supporting class character.

I'm sorry, but I really find Jared really adorable. Oh, Jared. You're so tsundere...

I think the "backstory" issue that other people have isn't so much an issue. People get crushes.

Or rather, other people get crushes, so I've been told. I've been told it happens, sometimes randomly and for seeming no reason. Having never had a crush before, maybe my standards for "randomly and for seemingly no reason" might be higher than that of others, but I didn't have an issue with their attraction. Or Kyle's attraction and Jared's continued obliviousness/denial.

I also have no idea who Vanessa might be in the original show, which gives points in Frost's favor.

That inane thing about his limbs colluding with the enemy...I think his lack of bodily-kinesthetic knowledge is a nice cherry on it and adds to his adorable factor.

He's smart, but also naive and clueless and I dunno. He's kind of a Wooby, I think. Oh, Jared.

\*pat pat

The way he sees the world, which is clear through the narration...

\*pat pat

\*strokes head like a kitty

You know...no. I'm fine with it. Completely fine. In my head, this isn't Derek and Stiles, I can't even begin imagining Derek and Stiles as Jared and Kyle. There was maybe one moment where I could have seen it as a Teen Wolf fanfic, but that was something about Jared rumbling a moan and I thought something like, "Oh. Maybe originally something like growled? (cuz he's a wolfy and all)"  
...but that was kind of it.

I mean, even Sharp Teeth by meus\_venator had weird dissonant moments for me because I actually saw the characters Sam and Dean as Sam and Dean and I could picture it with the original actors and stuff. You know, with the people and their characters and their mannerisms and stuff.

Yeah, I'm rambling now...

I also feel like Kyle's parental backstory is different from Stiles'  
And OH MY GOD I just realized  
The "Uncle Hamilton" person...is that supposed to be Peter from the show?  
I JUST REALIZED.  
And a magical connection has been made.

Over half-way through rereading.  
The uncle that was mentioned briefly in the beginning and never talked about again.  
It's all good.

You know what? The elements work. The elements make sense. It's light and floofy, but it has serious parts and it have subtle nuances that make sense and work into the plot beautifully and enrich the piece as a whole.

The coffee thing was also amusing/endearing.

And oh, hey. Said uncle is mentioned again.  
Nah. The relationship between said uncle and MC Jared are completely different than that in the show (between Derek and su tio Peter).  
See, Patrick here actually cares about Jared.

And Kyle's young so his interactions make sense. I find myself in the odd position of being both socially awkward and young. I can empathize with both MC and LI. I *get* then, man. *Get* them.

I still have no idea who Vanessa would be in the show.

Oooh I got it!  
Jared's a geek!

Actually, that much was obvious, but he's no longer the ugly duckling and he's the type who doesn't realize it. But then again, he doesn't realize he's no longer the ugly duckling (if he ever was) because he just dgaf.  
Oh, Jared. You and your mild sociopathy.

I don't even know if I'm making sense anymore, but it's past 2AM here, so I think I deserve some slack.

I did understand the "psycho-murderer" comment regarding Jared's expression, though. That came from the show. \*raises hand\* I remember it.

:D idgaf, guyz

This thing's getting its 5-star back.

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

This is my least favorite Frost book to date. There was no background development at all. Jared was incredibly unlikable and robotic. Kyle was over-the-top impish. I didn't get the connection between them at all. The dialogue tried so hard to be witty that it was just campy. And frankly this does a disservice to massage therapists everywhere. Come on, I have never had an unprofessional massage, and the way Kyle acts with Jared, rolling him over with no towel on, being all sassy and snarky - he should have been fired on the spot.

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**Mandi says**

3.5 stars rounded up to 4. Short but super cute romance. Kind of insta-love, but it worked for me. Looking forward to see what else this author writes. :)

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**Bob says**

I'm really disappointed in Loose ID for publishing this. This is repurposed fanfiction from Teen Wolf and not very good repurposed fanfic at that. The story develops way too quickly, important background information is glossed over to the point that Jared (formerly Derek Hale) is unlikable rather than understandably conflicted. It works as fanfic because people seeking out Derek Hale/Stiles Stilinski fanfic know what Derek Hale has been through and why Stiles might be attracted to him.

In this case, however, more time should've been spent filing off the serial numbers to build up the background behind the characters to explain why they work together. As it reads for original fiction, Jared is gruff and abrupt for no reason and Kyle's impishness reads as over the top rather than an established character trait built up over multiple episodes.

I understand from the author's fan tumblr that she plans on pulling more of her fanfic to publish. I hope she spends more time on character background.

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**Katharina says**

Bloody hell, I LOVED this!! Yeah, it's silly sometimes, and a tiny little bit unlikely (tiny? \*cough\*), and, okay, would a masseur that young and that new be THAT damn skilled and self-assured and perfectly

confident in his abilities? And would he be working from the beginning in such an upper-class establishment? I'm a bit sceptical about all that... So for this and Jared's secretary who's a little bit too over-the-top for my taste, I should totally detract one star.

BUT, this was such a cute story, well-written, with perfect dialogue lines, endearing main characters (especially after the first third of the story), and exactly my kind of humour - and it left me so light-hearted and feeling so good - that I just can't help but whole-heartedly recommend it! It's short and sweet and funny and, oh, so uplifting.

So half a star simply for the state of my happily sighing self right now and we're up to 4.5! And rounding up too. What a great day this is!

\*happysigh\*

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## **Monique says**

**A fabulous read from a new Author I will definitely be keeping an eye on.**

This is Dominique Frosts debut, it is a novella but in my opinion she shows great promise for future releases. The characters are most definitely three dimensional and the story totally engaging and certainly had me laughing out loud on more than one occasion.

The story is told completely from Jared's point of view and I have to say he is an obnoxious and thoroughly unpleasant man, he's a Lawyer and director of the family firm, he is consumed by work with little or no time for relationships of any kind. His lovely secretary Vanessa, who deserves a medal for putting up with him, practically has to blackmail him into going for a massage that in her opinion is essential to his well being, as well as the rest of the employees that might run into his foul temper!

Jared is irritable and cranky and the last place he wants to be is getting a massage, it is far too time consuming and pointless especially when the "baby twink" Kyle, doesn't look old enough to be shaving never mind being a fully trained and experienced therapist. Kyle is calm and courteous with an undertone of polite sarcasm, I would really have loved to be in his head when he met Jared, I could imagine the expletives pinging around, and if it had been me, I would have slung the rude, arrogant, self important idiot out on his arse!

Surprisingly Jared feels relaxed and de-stressed and is convinced the baby twink has drugged him in some way... he is not one willing to admit when he is wrong! Kyle and his massages are actually improving his disposition which has been noticed at work and Kyle intrigues him, he is not intimidated by his gruff manner and refuses to kowtow to him, and is unimpressed by Jared's wealth and status. Bickering and snarky comments are the norm between these two, which was really their lust coming forth without either of them understanding why and Jared finds himself jealous of the time that Kyle spends with other clients.

We don't get a glimpse into Kyle's inner machinations but from observation through Jared's eyes there is an obvious mutual attraction and Jared is so out of touch with his sensitive side he is oblivious. Kyle has to be the forward thinking one to get them anywhere near some kind of relationship and it was lovely to see the

vulnerable, compassionate, caring and considerate side to a man that had himself been starved of affection. Kyle is a funny, cheeky and charming character who was just adorable and made Jared realise that the World did not in fact revolve around him alone.

I do think this novella could have become a novel, there was enough character development to warrant more from these two and I was actually quite sad when I had finished as I really wanted to see the relationship as it developed. There is kind of an insta love thing going on but really it happens over weeks and Jared has no idea initially anyway! If you are looking for instant sexual gratification in this book you will be disappointed as they don't actually get down and dirty till almost the end, but there is more than enough to keep you occupied until then with their humorous interactions and some very interesting secondary characters, namely Vanessa the secretary and Jared's interfering and overprotective Uncle!

I thoroughly enjoyed this first book from Ms Frost, it was a fun and easy read and I look forward to seeing what else she will be delighting us with.

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*This ARC was provided by Loose Id, for a fair and honest review*

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## **JustJen "Miss Conduct" says**

Review written for Hearts On Fire Reviews

This story turned out to be quite different than I expected. It's about Jared Hamilton, the overworked, stressed out partner in his and his uncle's law firm. He is one cranky, mean son-of-a-gun to just about everyone with which he comes into contact. His secretary, Vanessa, who is a fabulous little spitfire, makes a massage appointment for him to help relieve his stress and generally try to make him more bearable to be around. Queue Kyle Washburn, spunky, twinkly, magical masseuse extraordinaire. Kyle is funny and cute, and after his first vividly descriptive massage session with Jared, I wanted to book my own session ASAP. I could feel the tension leaving Jared with every word.

Of course, Jared is miserable towards Kyle almost the entire time, but I absolutely loved how Kyle didn't back down or take any of Jared's insults, but rather, he turned the tables right back on Jared and gave as good as he got.

There are some light moments of sadness concerning Kyle's mom, but there isn't too much detail, and the story moves on fairly quickly from that. This is the point in the story where we begin to see a different side to Jared. Fortunately, Kyle sees it too and decides to continue their friendship. I thoroughly enjoyed Kyle's humor. He is extremely easy going and fun-loving and exactly what Jared needed in a friend/partner. These guys take things pretty slow, though more from a lack of communication than any real conscious effort, but it works quite well and makes for some steamy scenes later on. There is an age difference (Kyle's 20 to Jared's 35), but it isn't every very noticable and seems to work with them.

I was a little disappointed in the ending in that it seemed to just end, almost like the author ran out of time, but maybe that's just my wishing there was more to their story. If you enjoy a fast, easy and fun read, give this one a try.



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## **Mandy\*reads obsessively\* says**

3.75\*

Jared is a jackass, but in the nicest possible way. He's annoying and arrogant, but after sticking with him through a few pages of this story, a story he narrates, I started to like him.

He's not quite as badass as he thinks he is, he knows who's the boss ( his secretary totally is! ) so when she sends him to get a massage he goes, grudgingly but he goes.

Kyle his massage therapist annoys him too, but he sort of likes it.

It's cute, funny and oddly sweet. It's a bit of instant love, but you know what? I don't care, I liked it, I chuckled and enjoyed myself and am sure to go check out this authors other works.

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## **Macky says**

Wow! Wow!Wow! Five star plus and why haven't I found Dominiques books sooner?

I adored this quirky novella. It had everything I love in a m/m story. I laughed at the snarky humour, which is my favourite type, cringed at how bad tempered Jared was but at the same time secretly fell for him because he's so irascible, became hooked on Kyle from the moment he back chatted Old Grumpy pants Jared and cheered Vanessa ( Jareds cheeky secretary ) every time she totally ignored her ratty boss and just did what she thought best and thank god she did!

Delightful, delicious and delectable... With some of the best drawn out sexual tension Ive come across in any romance which lead to a real sizzling love scene that left me tingling. Fab-U-lous!

I have just read all her books back to back but ended up doing it back to front so even though this is her debut novella, I've actually read this last of all. Each one a five star rating for me so Ms Frost gets a hat trick. If you haven't read her yet then rectify that straight away. I love her style! Reccomend her books highly.

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## **namericanwordcat says**

I had fun reading this category lengthy grumpy hero and hero that doesn't take his guff romp.

We get fun massage details, some amusing secondary characters, and ping of banter between the leads.

Fast read to make you smile.

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## **Trix says**

This was boring. Some of the elements stayed the same throughout all 3 books I've read by this author. There is a significant age difference between the characters, the younger one is always mouthy and very bold, the

older one knows to take it slow and seduce his way into the younger one's bed and heart.

The only thing that made it bearable was the slight humor included, the jokes sprinkled here and there (and even they sometimes fell flat). I got to a point where I was reading fast forward, hardly caring what exactly went on between the two. It was predictable enough to let my mind wander.

Sadly, this was just an ok read for me and I'll probably not remember it in a month. But for those looking for witty characters, funny dialogue, a caring partner and angsty romance this will make a good read.

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## **Monika says**

Review posted on World of Diversity Fiction

Short, sweet, funny an easy read and I loved it. A good pick me up story when you're looking for something to cheer you up and make you smile or if you just can't decide what to read.

Jared's uncle has just given him the directorship at his family's law firm. He does nothing but work which makes Jared a rather unpleasant person to be around. Jared is totally stressed out, to the point of alienating the firm's clients so his secretary makes him an appointment at a massage parlor grudgingly Jared goes.

Kyle is the massage therapist assigned to Jared and luckily his easy going nature lets him ignore Jared's unpleasant behaviour. Kyle has a knack for sarcasm so when Jared arrives with his negative attitude Kyle has no problem dealing with him.

I actually liked Jared's gruff demeanor but I think a lot of why I liked it comes from the relationship he has with his secretary Vanessa who needles and prods Jared every chance she gets. The two of them had me laughing out loud and his interactions with Kyle are equally as funny. Kyle finds himself attracted to Jared right away. The attraction grows when Kyle has a family emergency and needs to go to the hospital. Jared offers him a ride then stays with him and listens to Kyle while he tells him about his mother. This is where Kyle see's there is more to Jared than just that gruff exterior and Jared realizes he has feelings for his massage therapist.

I really enjoyed this novella, it was a fun read. Dominique Frost was able to engage in the story and the characters right away and keep me there until the end. There were a couple of negative things, I would have liked the story to be longer giving us a better look and understanding of both Jared and Kyle's life before they meet and during their relationship. For a 70 page novella I think the price is a bit steep and would have been better a few dollars less.

Given all that I do recommend this.

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### **Eli Easton says**

It's not often I find a new author that I immediately fan/follow, but I knew within 10 pages that I was going to be slavishly loyal to Dominique Frost. This is her only publication to date, alas, but hopefully there will be more.

Why? There's just a solid, delightful, super fun character and prose voice in this. Some other reviewers put me off with their reviews, because I don't like "jerk" characters in general. But no problem there, this MC immediately grabbed my interest because the writing is FUNNY and sly. Yes, he is a jerk at the start but in the way the Sherlock or House are jerks--fascinating and funny and genuine. I loved the story all the way through.

Please write more, Ms. Frost!

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### **Gigi says**

Yummy little M/M romance snack, 79 short pages. Well worth an hour of your time.

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### **Susan65 says**

Cute and funny. I love snark, i really do, I love when one guy verbally gives back as good as he gets. That's exactly what Kyle does to Jared and it's freaking hilarious.  
Short but fun read.

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