



Forever. I Promise.

Lily Grace

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Dear Author,

People always tell me that the chance of finding your true love in high school is pretty slim. Well thank god then that I didn't meet Patrick in high school; that's just the time I fell in love with him. We actually met the day we were born, our mothers going in labour the exact same day and us being born just minutes apart from each other. We grew up together, always being at each other's side, no matter what. So why are people so shocked about us falling in love? Why are they telling us that for us to be close is great but for us to love each other is wrong?

But all this doesn't matter, because no matter what our families may think, I am never letting him go. I simply cannot live without him and I certainly don't want to. So even if everybody will turn on us, we'll be good, because we have each other.

Photo Description:

Two teenage boys cuddle outside. One is leaning back against the other's chest and they're smiling at each other like nothing else exists in the world.

This story was written as a part of the M/M Romance Group's "**Love Has No Boundaries**" 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.

Forever. I Promise. Details

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From Reader Review Forever. I Promise. for online ebook

Jeanne 'Divinae' says

Well, this was a very well written story. I liked how it started about finding your true love and how he was happy that he didn't realize it until later on. :-) Scott was a jerk. Brad and Joel were awesome friends. But the worst how their 'parents' reacted. It really sucks they aren't open minded. It was sad, but I am happy that it worked out for them in the end. They don't need people in their lives if they aren't going to be that way, no matter if they were just their friends or parents.

Lolita says

amazing!!!!

Janie says

What a heartbreakingly beautiful story. It amazes me that there are parents out there that would rather lose a child than have them be gay. What a bunch of bigoted fucking assholes.

Sunne says

It was good but at the end the blatant homophobia was just a bit too much for me, like look: This is how homophobic parents react.

Apart from that it was good.

Heather says

I tend to stay away from YA.

I was pleasantly surprised with this one. These two boys were incredibly courageous and mature considering the circumstances.

Zack and Patrick had every hurdle that could tear them apart thrown their direction.

I was really hoping either set of parents would come around. To hate, so strongly that you forever loose your child seems ridiculous. I wanted to give these boys a hug and promise they would be okay.

But, you know. They got it under control. They take care of one another. Have each other. Sometimes that's all you need.

Julesmarie says

I loved the relationship part of this story. Wonderfully sweet.

Some Favorite Quotes:

his best friend, his hero, and his favorite person all wrapped up into one.

"maybe we can just be each other's family."

Sandra says

Offered for FREE from the M/M Romance Group's Love Has No Boundaries event. Thank you too all the amazing authors who participated!

4.5 stars Oh my goodness! What a beautiful, sweet, and sad story. I loved the connection between Pat and Zach. I loved that they got together with almost no agnst. I loved their smexy innocent exploration during the ultra sweet sex scenes. I even loved the pain I felt when things weren't going well. The one thing I didn't love, was their parents reactions. I'm OK with the unfortunately realistic plot device of parents not understanding. Pat's parents were actually better in the realism I think (view spoiler) but I didn't like the way Zach's mom was portrayed. It just seemed like it was trying a little too hard to make things *too hard* for them. But great story, sweet Epilogue. I'd love to see a sequel of these guys, or even better, of Joel and Brad!!!

Random pet peeve (view spoiler)

Jamie says

This was a lovely story about two boys who grow up together and fall in love. They face homophobia and discrimination from some although they find help from others. I loved how supportive the boys were of each other.

Thanks Heather for the GB pick!

Pjm12 says

You have to hand it to these teenagers. They show immense courage and tenacity in the face of dreadful odds. With both sets of parents against their love, Zach and Pat hold true to each other. I loved that geeky

Zach seems the stronger. Pat is the jock but he is also the protector,

I felt their coming out to each other could have been handled better, but the rest of it flowed smoothly, The parents seemed a little extreme to me, but I guess these sorts of bigots actual exist (goddammit)...

Great response to prompt provided.

Exina says

Another coming-of-age / coming out story in the LHNB collection.

Patrick and Zack were born on the same day, grew up together, were best friends in their whole life.

One day Zack realizes he is not only gay, but practically in love with his best friend. He is overwhelmed and shocked by it.

“Pat... I need to tell you something.” Try as he might, he couldn’t keep the tremble out of his voice.

When Patrick scooted closer and wrapped his arms around him, Zack couldn’t hold back his tears any longer. He cried into Patrick’s shoulder and Patrick just held him tighter.

“Zack, I promise you, if you’ve killed somebody, I’ll help you hide the body.”

Their coming out to each other is sweet and uncomplicated. But when they are outed by accident, their life becomes a nightmare. They have to face exterior problems: bullying and homophobia. Their parents are simply horrible. I know there are people out there like them, it just makes me sad and angry.

Patrick and Zack were wonderful. I loved how rock-steady their relationship was. Their trust and love for each other is beautiful. I don’t even care about the slightly clichéd pairing of a jock and a nerd (and also a blonde and a dark-haired boy) – it seems I meet this one quite often recently.

“We just, we need to figure out what we’re going to do. You’re the smart one. What’re we going to do, Zack?”

Their friends are totally awesome: (view spoiler)

***Forever. I Promise.* is a gripping, heartbreaking story.**

Lily Grace, you are on my radar.

Originally posted on my blog.

My favorite quotes on Tumblr.

My cover:

Runell says

Wow. Just wow.

It's stories like *Forever. I Promise* that makes me thankful that I love to read in the first place, and makes fall in love with reading all over again. It's stories like this one that makes thankful for the authors like Lily Grace who is able to tell such a beautiful story about two beautiful people who don't want anything else except to be with each other and for other people to respect what they have, accept it for what it is, and move on so both parties can live their lives as they wish to do so. Nothing more. Nothing less.

Its also stories like *Forever. I Promise* that makes seethe with anger because people such as Zack and Patrick's parents' actually live and thrive off of their prejudices; their inability to accept anything that isn't *normal* or doesn't fit the mold of the "accepted" universal idea of what love is, what love means, and who love is able to exist between. It's stories like this one that also makes me really sad that there are people like Zack and Patrick who then have to go through their lives knowing that the people that *should* love them no matter what don't.

It's stories like this one, however, that also remind me that those people that are like Zack and Patrick *survive* everyday because they have each other. It's stories like this one that just make me . . . happy.

As I read this story--very *late* at night or very *early* in the morning, however you want to look at it--I kept getting nervous as I got closer and closer to the end because I didn't want it to end. I wanted to stay with Zack and Patrick so much longer than ninety-seven pages worth. I wanted to know years and years worth of living and loving after where the story left off. Alas, this was not the case; it's okay though because in my mind they get everything they deserve and much, much more.

This was a very touching and heart-wrenching story that made me smile, laugh, *awww*, cuss people's idiocy and bigotry, and, in general, remind me that love is special no matter who it is between.

Samantha says

3.5

Around the time that I read this, I had been reading an excess of super sweet ooey-gooey stories, and I was so worried this would be another one of those. I was even prepared to call up my dentist (or possibly Heather, haha) to fill some cavities.

Luckily, it wasn't. In the end, this was an okay read. It just didn't have anything super duper special for me.

Trisha Harrington says

This was another really great LHN story. I love YA books and this one was just lovely. It was angst, sweet, happy, sad, and in the end it was beautiful. It's about best friends realising their feelings for each other and struggling when their parents try to keep them apart. We had two great friends who made it easier for them and a big bully who made my blood boil. I love the way this author wrote the story, so I hope to read more from her soon.

Bárbara says

Way too angst for me, and some of the dialogue was a bit weird.
It wasn't bad per se, but it could have been so much better.

Sandra says

A sweet, but not fluffy story about two boys growing up as best friends, who realize that their connection goes beyond friendship. Outed shortly after they figure out their feelings for each other during senior year, they are faced with bullies, hate and cold-hearted parents. Neither Zack's mom nor Patrick's parents will ever be eligible for parent of the year award, and I wanted to choke the ever-loving crap out of all three of them for most of this story. Bigoted, hateful, close-minded assholes don't deserve to have children. Love them unconditionally, support your kids in what makes them happy, give them a good foundation upon which to build their own lives - **that's** your fucking job. All three of them failed spectacularly, and deserved to lose their sons. Fuckwads. Rarely does a story make me so angry as the ones that depict bigoted assholish parents. Like homosexuality is a choice. Or a disease. UGH!

Free from the M/M Romance group's Love Has No Boundaries 2013 challenge. My thanks to the author.
