



## **Tumbling Blindly**

*Sue Brown*

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**Tumbling Blindly** Sue Brown

*Book one in The Arches Series*

*Dumped by his partner, Matt isn't looking for love. Once he meets Gabe at the gym, he finds a friend as well as a lover.*

After he is dumped by Milo, his long-term partner, Matt retreats to his bed, only to be scared out of his wits by two policemen breaking into his house, checking to see if he was still alive after being alerted by a nosy neighbour.

The last thing he expects is to meet one of the policemen a few months later at his local gym. Gabe makes it obvious that he is attracted to Matt, but Matt is still getting over his breakup. To his surprise, Gabe isn't deterred by Matt's reluctance, and promises to be friends until Matt is ready for more.

Then Matt's world is turned upside down by Milo's return, begging a bed for one night. One night turns into a week and Milo doesn't move off the sofa. Although Matt still has feelings for Milo, he realises he also has feelings for Gabe, who is more than a friend, and waits patiently to be a lover.

## Tumbling Blindly Details

Date : Published February 11th 2013 by Total-E-Bound (first published February 10th 2013)

ISBN : 9781781842157

Author : Sue Brown

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## From Reader Review *Tumbling Blindly* for online ebook

### Gigi says

[MC Matt was *so* needy (good grief, he was bed bound for 5 days without food after his boyfriend Milo left him! No one visited or phoned him) and MC Gabe was *so overly* possessive (Matt couldn't even hold a conversation with another man without Gabe going apeshit) that I just couldn't buy into the story. (hide spoiler)]

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### Enny says

I usually love Sue Brown's stories but this one didn't work for me since one of the MCs was a complete doormat and the other one steamrolled right over him.

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### Becky Condit says

I enjoyed this short, the first one in the series, and shall definitely be waiting for the others. Sue Brown is one of my favourite writers and I expect to find a beautifully written story of angst, emotion, romance all tied up in a bow, and leaving you wanting more. She doesn't disappoint with *Tumbling Blindly* and I'm looking forward to *Arches #2*.

Please see The Brit's complete review on Release Day, February 11, 2013 at <http://mrsconditreadsbooks.com/index....>

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### Candice says

Gabe is too possessive. Yikes. Milo is a douche and Matt is a doormat.

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### E. says

This m/m erotica novella by Sue Brown is the first book in 'The Arches' series. This lovely quick read introduces Matthew (Matt) Collins who is devastated when his lover cruelly dumps him for another man. PC Gabriel (Gabe) West is one of the men who investigates Matt's condition at the instigation of a neighbor. Matt is startled to encounter the sexy policeman at the Arches, a gym for gay men that both of them patronize, but he is even more astounded to discover that Gabe is interested in getting to know him better. The reappearance of Matt's ex-lover threatens to derail the relationship before it begins but not if Gabe has

anything to say about it.

This entertaining and sizzling story is a delicious read that provides a nice flavor of a different country. I enjoyed the description of the hunky policeman (and the reminder of the importance of not judging by appearances, given his silver hair) and the sweet way the romance between the two main characters unfolds and what a yummy cover although I think they got the haircolor wrong (this from a person who doesn't normally pay much attention to covers for just that reason, lol). I look forward to reading more titles in this series and I am delighted to have won this particular novella as it is the first work I have read by this author.

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### **Macky says**

Wanted to like this because Sue Brown is a decent author and for as much as its well written unfortunately I was decidedly underwhelmed. Couldn't connect with any of the characters and so for me the chemistry was lacking. Milo was an ass, Matt was a bit of a wimpy walkover and Gabe was overly possessive at times. Even the love scenes were a bit flat. Not my cuppa tea I afraid. Shame!

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### **Susan65 says**

3.5 Stars

Pretty decent for a short story, but not quite long enough to really get to know the characters. I would have liked more of a background on Milo. I really liked Matt, even though he was a push-over, and Gabe was great at first, but I didn't quite like his "alpha" posturing towards the end.

So, in closing, I liked the story but it was missing "something"...not quite sure what, but I needed more

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### **Cryselle says**

There's not much to spoil after that blurb, so I guess I can speak freely. The story turned out to be more fun than I feared after a slightly off-putting beginning.

Finding your MC huddled in bed, sniveling for days on end over a breakup isn't a really auspicious beginning, and I wanted to kick Matt a good one. Hurt, yeah, but this was flat out self indulgent. Seriously, he was holed up in there long enough to prompt a worried (Matt spells it "nosy") neighbor to call the police. Which might be the biggest favor anyone ever did him, aside from scummy Milo walking out on him.

Matt took the breakup hard, even though there's very little to show that Milo was ever a kind or loving partner, and even two months later, he's barely willing to entertain the idea of Gabe being interested in him. Of course, when your first meeting is "cop finding not-dead body holed up in rancid bedroom," there's still that first impression thing to get over.

Matt "wanted to prove to Gabe that there were times when he didn't smell like the arse end of a donkey"

when they first meet at the Arches, a gay gym that looks like the planned backdrop for a series of stories. Odor keeps cropping up, some mentions work better than others.

Gabe's willing to go for friendship—he's really a too good to be true sort of guy, aside from a tendency to go topky without provocation or invitation, which Matt does learn to utilize as he gradually comes out of his funk. He's also the resident kicker of asses, figuratively speaking, which Matt needs in large doses after Milo starts weaseling his way back into Matt's life. Gabe's more alive on the page than Matt is, and it's a little bit of a mystery what he sees in Matt that draws him so strongly.

Milo thinks Matt's a decent meal ticket though, and like the camel under sticking his nose under the tent wall, starts oozing his way back into Matt's life. Since Matt's backbone is a good grade of cooked spaghetti, he might just manage it.

The story is well enough written and the character growth is strong enough that I was willing to read through to find out how this resolves, because the initial impression of Matt as a sad sack wasn't particularly enjoyable. If Gabe hadn't kicked his butt into a better approximation of a human with a spine, I wouldn't have found much to like about him, but as it was, I could believe in Matt getting his act together and the two of them as partners with some sort of equality.

Luka, the gym owner, is an interesting secondary character with a lot of potential conflict, and I like the notion of the gym as a nexus of stories. I'm certainly willing to read the next one.

It's embarrassing to admit that my opinion may be colored by this being my third book in a row where a POV character can be mistaken for a particularly helpless damsel in distress, and that I might have felt differently had I come upon this one cold. My rating is half a star higher than my first inclination, to try to compensate for this bias.

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### **Hanne says**

I liked it, but..... I'm not sure I warmed to either of the two men, maybe if I "got to know" them better they would make more sense to me? Maybe I'm missing the point (or plot)? I don't know, so I'll wait for book #2 to see if that one will shed some light. :)

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### **Meggie says**

I'm not sure what to think of this short light romance. The main romance isn't much. The storyline circles around Matt, who has been dumbed by his ex Milo, and Gabe, a police officer who stumbles into Matt life. Both MC's weren't developed well and their short romance wasn't much either. They meet weekly at the gym The Arches and have an easy friendship going on. I liked the cover of this book, but the story on itself was badly short and undeveloped.

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### **Natalija says**

I feel bad for rating this book so low, but I just couldn't bring myself to like the main couple. I don't think

they make a good fit, mostly because Gabe is too jealous and possessive for someone like Matt. Throughout the book, his constant attention felt suffocating, and I honestly think that Matt is better off without him.

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### **Elsbeth says**

Gah!

I really do not like the main character.

I didn't feel the chemistry, at all.

Yup, I am done.

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### **Lisa The Novel Approach says**

*Tumbling Blindly* is the story of a man who has a difficult time standing up to the one person he really needs just to scrape off the bottom of his shoe, when an overnight couch offer turns into a week of mooching; it's the story of a man who's pretty good at manipulating and taking advantage of the man who'd once loved him; and it's the story of a man who can very much see himself in Matt's life and is more than willing to be patient until Matt is ready to move on completely.

If you're looking for a quick little read with a couple of guys learning how to connect and communicate and fall for each other, give this one a go.

*You can read the rest of this review at The Novel Approach*

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### **Morgana says**

**1.5 stars**

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### **A says**

3.5 Stars.

Review Originally Published here: <http://joyfullyjay.com/2013/02/review...>

If I was going to judge this book by it's cover, this novella would receive a 5 star rating! Goodness, this cover is hot. And for the most part, the MCs in *Tumbling Blindly*, Matt and Gabe, live up to the high expectation. Since they spend a good portion of this novella at the gym, *The Arches*, these boys are not lacking in the physical perfection department. Unfortunately, the story doesn't quite take prime advantage of their undoubtedly plentiful talents and abilities.

Matt has just been recently dumped by his boyfriend of two years, Milo. Milo and Matt's relationship started

out strong while uni students, but once real life started, Matt began working to make ends meet and Milo felt above a desk job, instead taking advantage of Matt in more ways than one. He wasn't above flirting or even cheating and eventually dumped Matt for a man who will take care of him. Devastated, Matt spends five days in seclusion, only getting out of bed for the bare necessities. On the fifth day, two policemen show up at his home, directed there by the nosy, "concerned" neighbor. This is how Matt first meets cop Gabe, who makes sure he's okay and quickly leaves.

Matt finally pulls his act together enough to get back to the gym, where Gabe recognizes him from their encounter a few weeks prior. Gabe is clearly interested in Matt, but Matt is not ready to move on, so they become friends. In the meantime, Milo has been kicked out by his new sugar daddy, and he preys on Matt's soft heart in order to secure a place to stay for a night, which turns into a week. Matt has to decide if he wants Milo back in his life for good, or if he's willing to take a chance with Gabe.

That's pretty much it, folks. I didn't share any more than you would read in the blurb for the book, but it basically lays out every detail of this novella. In other words, there's not a whole lot to it. Reading this novella is a perfectly entertaining way to spend an hour or two, but don't expect anything ground-breaking or revelatory. What you have here is a nice story about two attractive men (I tried to look at the cover as much as I could while I read) who become friends on the way to more. It's well-written and has a good balance of plot and sex scenes. The MCs have a nice chemistry and their dialogue together is amusing and fun.

There are some things that stand out as problems. First of all, there's the whole premise of the MCs initial encounter. Matt is in bed for five days after his breakup with the horribly selfish and lazy Milo. Five days! For a two-year relationship with a real loser? Hard to believe. It becomes even more implausible when Milo returns on the scene and, while Matt feels a little bad for him, he is not filled with that same emotion that had him literally incapacitated only a few months prior. This overindulgence of wallowing did indeed bring Gabe into his life, but this plot point felt like a bit of a stretch for me.

There was a lot of unnecessary filler stuff. Luca, the gym owner, is quite obviously being set up to be the MC in another book in the series. His personal problems seemed irrelevant and out of place in this story. Since there wasn't a whole lot going on in this book, I felt like there were several places where things would happen or conversations would occur that didn't really further the plot. And the epilogue? It seemed tacked on as though the author thought an epilogue was necessary, but did not add one ounce of resolution to this story.

If you're a fan of Sue Brown, and many of you are, I would not dissuade you from reading this book. It's not going to change your life, but it's a pleasant read that will perhaps brighten your afternoon.

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