

Coming Out of the Storm

Laura Mathews

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Dear Author,

The man on his back is my friend—no, my best friend, and I love him. He brought me here for moral support.

Seeing him with these men is hot as Hell, but it's also breaking my heart.

We were together when he lost his legs in a war that didn't belong to us. Since we returned, he always seems ashamed of any physical contact, and I have to hide the depths of my feelings for him. Now some kinky porn studio has offered him money for a couple of films, and he's going to use the proceeds to get the prosthesis he desperately wants, thinking that being able to walk again is his only path to happiness.

Help me make him accept and return my love. Help me show him that I'd always love him no matter what.

Photo Description:

A double amputee lies on his back, one man supporting his head and shoulders as another stands between the vee of his thighs, fucking him. Beneath the veneer of sex, the scene feels contrived and the intimacy broken, chipped and cracked by a lack of a personal connection.

This story was written as a part of the M/M Romance Group's "**Love's Landscapes**" 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.

This story may contain sexually explicit content and is **intended for adult readers**. It may contain content that is disagreeable or distressing to some readers. The M/M Romance Group strongly recommends that each reader review the General Information section before each story for story tags as well as for content warnings.

Coming Out of the Storm Details

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From Reader Review Coming Out of the Storm for online ebook

Kate Pennington says

The boys are complicated and brooding, both broken to one degree or another. There's no perfect answer for them, nor should there be, but by the end of the story there is hope, and hot sex. Never a bad combination!

Lia Black says

This was a difficult prompt---leave it to Gabbo to really challenge an author! Laura did a beautiful job making it all work. :-)

K says

Short contemporary story Andre and Billy were childhood friends and then together in the military, until they got caught in an explosion that took Billy's legs. Andre has now left the miltary and turns up on Billy's doorstep, to find out he's quit therapy and is raising money for his prosthetics via an online sex-cam. To raise money faster Billy agrees to do a film, not realising that Andre's feelings for him go way beyond friendship. This was an enjoyable story.

Tina says

This one is hard to rate. It was brave tackling this prompt - a double amputee love story with fetish aspects - but even though I liked the story idea I couldn't connect really with the characters. The guys just stayed one-dimensional for me. Overall, Laura Mathews did a great job making the story prompt work.

Steelwhisper says

2.5* rounded up.

This was hard to rate. I appreciate the daring in writing a story with amputees. It was impeccable on SPaG issues as well, and the plot was concise and followed the prompt.

On the other hand I couldn't connect with both main characters, they stayed one-dimensional for me and I never came to really care for the situation they were in. Something is missing there for me. Emotions maybe, real emotions.

I also found it a bit a pat, maybe somewhat fearful move to explain the sex away with the amputee exploiting amputee-fetishists.

I'd have preferred something more intimate, and I wanted a more intimate look into the minds of either man.

Serena Yates says

Best friends having to deal with one of them losing both legs in a war neither of them particularly wanted to fight in is bad enough. Add the fact both of them feel guilt for their emotions following the explosion, and you have the makings of a very dramatic situation. Andre and Billy of this story are stubborn men as well as proud, so it took quite some doing for them to figure out how hey really felts and how to deal with their new situation.

Andre is the one who takes the initiative. He never got over his unresolved feelings for Billy (even though he was dumb enough to reject "more" when it was offered), and seeing Billy vanish from his sight in the medical helicopter was too much. Now that his military commitment has ended, he turns up on Billy's doorstep, hoping to rekindle, or rather start, their relationship.

Billy has felt guilty for wishing it hadn't been him, is frustrated with his lack of progress, and to top it all off, he made some mistakes when signing his papers dismissing him from medical care, so now he has to pay for prosthetic legs by himself. And there is only one way to get the money... He hates what he has to do, and asks Andre to come with him for moral support—which is when everything comes to a head and they actually start talking. Finally!

If you like stories about men dealing with a total reorientation of their lives, if you enjoy reading about best friends who have wanted more from each other for years but lacked the courage to ask for it, and if you're looking for a thoughtful read about dealing with the loss of both legs and rediscovering the joy of living, then you will probably like this free short story.

Meep says

Got maybe two-thirds through.

Brave tackling this prompt, but very one-dimensional the characters never felt real to me and there was no emotion.

Melanie~~ savs

Great guys! Thanks for the story!

[NOTE: I rate most writing event stories (free reads) 4 or 5 stars because of my appreciation of the author's participation and gift.]

Verity says

Review to come

Vivian says

Hurt/comfort friends to lovers story that pushes the envelope.

When I saw this prompt I was impressed and I have to admire anyone who takes the challenge to write a double amputee love story with the fetishizing. I liked how Dre and Billy's relationship was handled through the myriad of challenges. There was a good balance, but I wished I had more input from Billy's perspective before/during/after regarding the skin flick.

GlamLawyer says

Raw and real. There's no sugar coating and I really like that. There is something so emotional and touching in all that darkness and anger in that story. It isn't an easy read but it's a good one.

melek says

Story is about second chances lost friendship or love. Billy lost both legs barely making it by. He now comes to Andre for moral support in a way no friend will want. Its a one time thing he want prosthetic legs and billy is willing to do anything to get it. maybe things wouldn't have gone the way they did if only they talked not be so stubborn but things worked out fine.

Janie says

Wow, kudos to Laura for taking on a very serious and what could have turned out to be a depressing story, but it wasn't. It was really good. I loved that Billy did the whole push and pull relationship with Andre. I can't even begin to imagine what it must have been like for Billy to become a double amputee and for Andre to watch his best friend and a man he loved go through that. I thought Laura did this story up right and I truly enjoyed it. I had a hard time with the whole porn/amputee fetish, but the story just wouldn't have been complete without it. Great job.

jules0623 says

2.5 stars. Nicely written but the characters lacked sexual chemistry and the ending was rushed.

Kristan says

This was a great little story. There were no strings left hanging, no questions unanswered. It was the perfect length and the characters were excellent.

I really liked the writing style and everything from the story arc to the amount of angst was perfectly suited to this story. A very nice HEA and an enjoyable read.