



## **Freshman Feint**

*Elaine Ashford*

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My best friend is the only man for me...and he'll never be mine.

## **I can't have him...**

I'm Liam. My freshman year at college is giving me a tough time. It's not just the classes ... it's knowing I'm in love with my straight best friend, Nathan.

## **I can't leave him...**

We've been friends forever, and that means I have to help him get ready for his date with Charlotte, the girl we know from high school. It kills me to think he'll never feel the same way about me that I do about him.

## **Unless something changes...**

Owen, the guy from my hockey team, is into me ... and maybe it's just my imagination, but that seems to bother Nathan. Is there really a chance for us, or am I just kidding myself?

## **Freshman Feint Details**

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# From Reader Review Freshman Feint for online ebook

## Galia says

2.5 stars

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## Molly Lolly says

Original review on Molly Lolly

Four stars!

This was a cute story. I adored Liam and how in love with his best friend he was. he was so totally gone for Nate. His emotions were so vivid I felt them with Liam as I was reading. His friendship with Owen was wonderful. They truly helped each other and became close. I felt bad for Liam and not having his feelings returned. Nate was clueless at first. His reaction to Liam after things happen were so realistic even if they were hurtful. When Nate came to his senses though I loved it. The story ends on a sweet happy for now. These two are definitely going to be together and work to make their relationship last. I would love to read a sequel and see them still together and in love five or ten years down the line. I'd love to see them as adults and know what they're lives are like.

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## Daesy says

**\*\*Grammar\*\***

Nathan and Liam are neighbours and have been best friends since they were small. They are starting their first year at college and are going to share the same room. All seems going well if not for the fact that Liam is in love with his best friend since he was 15 and Nathan is straight. Now at 18 years old he still cant think about Nathan as only a friend. Nathan knows that he is gay but never cared about it, he is a good guy and a good friend. When they meet Nathan's high school crush, Charlotte, Liam doesnt know what to do. He is jealous and feels possessive and seeing his friend blush and become shy in front of the girl isnt helping his mood. In the end Liam is also a good friend and helps the 2 of them start talking. We know that there will be some sort of angst in the book but still the scene annoyed me a bit. While Charlotte and Nathan are talking they ignore Liam and the poor guy feels like a 3rd wheel. He gets his "revenge" soon after, when they are walking in the campus and meet Liam's hockey teammates. One of them Owen flirts with Liam and practically asks him out. This annoys Nathan, he doesnt like Owen and doesnt want Liam to be with him and tells the other guys they need to go bcs they are going to be late, a lie. Nathan was really selfish and the fact that later he accepts a date with Charlotte, really pissed me off.

Owen was a good guy and from the start i understood something was going on btw him and his friend Jordan. Like Liam he is in love with his straight best friend, the only thing that is different is that both of them have had other experiences and Jordan has a girlfriend. Owen and Liam start passing a lot of time together but nothing happens btw them, not even when Liam sees Charlotte and Nathan making out in their dorm room (luckily nothing more happens only some kisses) and the next day asks Owen to take his virginity. Owen tells him that he finds him really hot, but that he cant do that, bcs Liam is in love with another guy and will regret this after. Liam knows that he is right, and we all know that he would have never done it in the end, bcs all the time Owen and him almost kissed he always pulled away before something

happened, thinking like he was cheating on Nathan only thinking about kissing another guy.

When Liam was 15 he kissed another guy but never did more than that and we also know that is the same for Nathan. All the others seem to understand that they are pining for each other but not them.

Is Thanksgiving Day and the guys are back home. Liam isn't having a good time, his parents found out that he is failing his tests and want him to change university. Liam is depressed and wants to be with his best friend and forget about all the rest, so he goes to Nathan's house. Nathan understands that something is wrong with him and asks Liam to explain what's going on. When Liam tells him about his grades Nathan tries to comfort him saying that all will be ok and that he will help him study. Then he goes down stairs and comes back with some vodka. The 2 get drunk, kiss and give each other an hand job, falling asleep in the same bed. When the next morning Liam wakes up he is alone. Back at the university we see Nathan avoiding him. Liam starts to think that for his friend what happened that night was only an experiment. Liam once again passes a lot of time with Owen and the guy helps him study. When one day Nathan comes back in the dorm and finds them asleep together on Liam's bed he gets angry. He thinks that something happened btw them, that Liam had sex with him. Owen leaves them talking and finally Liam confesses his feelings for Nathan, but the other is too stupid to understand that he too loves Liam and tells him that he can't reciprocate his feelings (at this point this scene didn't make sense). Liam leaves the room, and goes to stay with Owen and Jordan in their room. For a week Nathan and Liam don't talk and don't meet.

Is the week-end and Liam's hockey team is having a match. There are a lot of ppl watching the game and to Liam's eyes one of them seems to have Nathan's face (he is right Nathan was there). After the game Liam goes back to their room and finds Nathan there, staring at an old picture. The 2 of them smiling together. Nathan tells him that he was an idiot that too late he understood he was in Love with him too, that when Charlotte asked him to go to her room, he couldn't do it, bcs she wasn't Liam and he wanted only him, but he had needed time to understand this. Liam tells him that isn't too late and finally the 2 of them kiss, but Liam wants more, he wants it all. Nathan tells him that they can wait, but Liam replies that he waited enough. Is their first time (first for both of them) and is awkward, gentle and at the same time full of passion and love.

They are finally a couple.

The book wasn't bad, sure is too short and the plot simple but i still liked some of the scene, the jealousy, the fact that both are virgins is a bonus, and the end was really good. Said this i must admit that it still missed something. We don't know if Liam is going to pass this semester or how his and Nathan's family will take the fact that they are together. I wanted to know more and this annoyed me a bit. I hope that the next book about Owen and Jordan will be better. The fact that was wrote in the 1st person didn't help my rating (i usually hate book like that). The heterosexual elements are few, just some kisses, so i could ignore them.

Next!

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## **Arshad says**

Another short but sweet romance, but this one took me by surprise. There were two perfectly valid ways this story could have played out, and it went the direction I wasn't expecting. The story turns on whether Nathan accepts Liam's love or rejects it. It could have gone either way and still been a good story. The novella gets an extra star from me for keeping me guessing.

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## **Elsi says**

I received a free copy of this book from the author in return for an honest review. Freshman Feint is a lovely m/m friends to lovers short story. Main Characters Liam and Nathan are starting College and are roommates and they have been best friends since forever. Last 3 years have been bit of a challenge for Liam tough as he has been in love with his best friend and living together doesn't help.. Liam is also struggling with college and when it seems like he has to quit Toronto University and his beloved hockey and return to his home town Hamilton Nathan finally reacts and one thing leads to another.. But then Nathan seems to disappear and Liam turns to his Hockey pal Owen for advise..

All in all this one was very well written short story. I'm not always a fan of short stories but this felt complete and definitely made me want to read more about these guys :) 4.5 stars from me!! Well done for a debut novella Elaine!! Can't wait to read more from this author!!

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## **Brown Eyed Girl ~Suzanne~ says**

\*\*\*I received a free copy of this book In return for an honest review\*\*\*

Freshman Feint is the first book in the straight college guys series. The book is told in Liam's POV. Liam is rooming with his best friend Nathan for their freshman year. These guys have known each other since they were practically in diapers! Liam is in love with Nathan. Problem is, Nathan's straight.

I really liked Liam. He was very relatable and I enjoyed being in his head. There was a touch of angst in the book but not too much and I really felt my heart break for him! We have all been "in love" with someone we shouldn't be with! Being Nathan's best friend takes precedence for Liam so he doesn't want to let Nathan know his feelings. It's just hard for him though to watch him date others!

The story was short and sweet. I've been bored halfway through books lately so the length was perfect for me! I'm really looking forward to the next book in the series. Maybe it's about Owen?

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## **Don Bradshaw says**

I was all for Owen. Nathans last minute confession seemed contrived.

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## **Tonileg says**

College new adult M/M romance with two best friends who start the difficult becoming an adult process while busy with classes, sports and budding romances.

Liam is out and rooming his freshman year with his straight best friend, Nathan. Liam got into college because of the Hockey team where he is making good friends, like Owen who is also gay and dealing with unrequited love like Liam who is in love with Nathan. Nathan is starting to date his high school crush, Charlotte, but after a drunken Thanksgiving make out with Liam things get complicated.

There is a HEA, but because they are so young, this is more of a 'Happy for now' ending. This could have

been a 3 star it it had been a book length.  
Cute fluff angsty story.  
78 pages (short story) and kindle freebie  
2 stars

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### **Jenna ~Don't Talk To Me When I'm Reading~ says**

Barely believable friends-to-lovers gfy. The hockey element was well written so that Gains it one star back.

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### **Wency says**

I had mixed feelings about this book and actually considered rating it 2 stars. The beginning was a bit boring and too fast paced to really connect with the characters. At some point I was ready to abandon this. I'm glad I soldiered on though. Last part turned out to be entertaining.

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### **Sylvia says**

#### **4 stars**

I enjoyed reading this Best friends to Lovers story.

I hope Owen's story is next!

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### **♥Rachel Anne's Romance Must Reads♥ says**

This was a fast paced novella about two best friends who are rooming together in college. One is gay and out. The other is straight and missing what's right in front of him.

He has to watch his friend as he flirts and hooks up with the girl he likes and takes solace in a new friends arms. Nate, the best friend, instantly hates the new guy for obvious reasons even though he won't admit it.

One problem I had with this book, and others, is when one person is hooking up and the other is brushing off a great guy or girl while pining for the other MC. Drives me crazy! That, and we don't get the info on how far Nate goes with that girl so I don't know how I feel about him 100%. Especially because we know the other is a virgin.

As far as novellas go, I did enjoy it though!

3.75 stars!

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## **Cadiva says**

Another sweet romance in the early years of adult life. I always find something heartening about stories set between the ages of 18 to around 25-ish when people are just finding their feet both independently either at university or in their first jobs.

This one was about two life long best friends heading off to college and one of them realising his feelings for the other were somewhat more than he'd expected. Liam had always been in love with Nathan but it took a while for the other guy to catch up.

While statistically the chances of them staying together in today's modern world is slim (although having said that, my parents met at 15, married at 22 and were together until my mum's sadly early death at the age of only 66 in 2014) I love the whole idea of them falling into what they hope will be a forever relationship.

There's a nice mix of secondary characters who have stories of their own to come and the campus life is also nicely fleshed out.

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## **P Leslie says**

\*I voluntarily read a Review Copy of this book. All opinion stated are solely my own and no one else's\*

This was a sweet story and I really liked it. Nathan's jealousy streak was amusing - Owen definitely bought out the worst in Nathan. Owen was fun and I hope we get to read his story next.

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## **Dutchgirl says**

I really liked this story, both Liam and Nathan are very likeable and i enjoyed reading their story. It is a sweet, little to no angst read. I hope we get the story of Owen next.

I read somewhere that this is the debut for this author? if so well done :)

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