

## **Ask, Answer, Look, Kiss**

*Livia Frost*

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Just when they think they will be in the friend zone forever, everything changes.

As a successful chef and co-owner of Best Bites Catering, Travis Reed is happy. He gets to do all the things he loves - live in one of the most beautiful Florida beach towns, cook the food he loves, and hang out with Benny McKenna, his best friend and co-owner of Best Bites. If there is one thing lacking in his life, it is a lover. It couldn't be Benny, though. Not when Benny made their friend-only status very clear shortly after they both came out.

Benny made the decision to keep his relationship with Travis purely in the friend zone back when both men were in college. Now, ten years since he made that decision, he is beginning to waver. Something about the focus Travis gives to his craft makes him jealous, illuminating how lonely he is. A love life punctuated by a series of one-night-stands isn't especially satisfying. And with Travis acting strangely ever since they moved in together, Benny is unsettled.

When a friend asks Benny and Travis to participate in a non-profit dating event for GLBT people in the Tampa Bay, they agree to help out. What they aren't prepared for is answering a series of increasingly intimate questions, all aimed at making couples fall in love. The idea of falling in love wasn't on Travis or Benny's radar, but now they are rethinking their assumptions. Could answering the right question lead to something more than they ever expected?

*Dear Author,*

*We've been friends forever. Best friends in school. Roommates and best friends in college. Partners and best friends in business. He was the first person I told when I realized I was gay. He just said, "Me, too." Yet somehow, in all those years, through all the ups and downs, we never even thought of being lovers. We were always best friends.*

*Then one day, something changed. What happened? How did we end up here?*

## **Photo Description:**

Two unclothed men stand side-by-side at the railing to a ship, their backs to us, facing the ocean. The man on the left has his arm around the waist of the other and their heads are tipped together affectionately. Both men are similar looking: wide shoulders, shaved heads, shapely butts, and golden skin. The one major difference is their tattoos. The man on the left has two tribal bands across his right bicep and shoulder. The other man has a swirling tribal design that covers most of his back, with smaller designs on his lower back and upper right thigh.

This story was written as a part of the M/M Romance Group's "**Love is an Open Road**" 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.

## **Ask, Answer, Look, Kiss Details**


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## **From Reader Review Ask, Answer, Look, Kiss for online ebook**

### **R \* A Reader Obsessed \* says**

3.5 Stars

The blurb pretty much says it all, so what I will tell you is that this was one of the better friends-to-lovers stories I've read.

I really liked the alternating pov's, as each reflect on their past, present, and future. Both Benny and Travis realize how the other has always fit and has been such a fixture in each other's lives. When their mutual friends' meddling force them to reveal more of themselves, they are shocked but not shocked to see what has been in front of them all along.

This had great UST and great, slow epiphanies as these two come to terms with their feelings. Sweet, sexy and tender - I don't doubt you'll find this a wonderful addition to your LOR DRitC library!

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### **Lucy says**

I was very pleasantly surprised at how much I liked this story and these guys. Friends to lovers is a favorite and I thoroughly appreciated that these two were gay and knew it, just had a different fear for not being together. Bonus points for how well the prompt pic was worked into the story!

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### **Anke says**

This was a very nice, well-rounded story and the author did a great job working the prompt pic into it.

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### **Sandra says**

Adorable Friends-to-Lovers novella about two men who've been best friends for 18 years, who live together, own a business together, and fear losing each other if they admit what they've both been feeling for a while.

Take a sprinkling of good friends who provide the needed push, a pinch of jealousy, an accident with a sharp knife, and some really strong UST-cum-sexy-times, and you have yourself a wonderful, somewhat fluffy and oh-so-ooey-goopy romance, culminating in the perfect ending.

Free from the M/M Romance group's Love Is An Open Road event. My thanks to the author!

<https://www.goodreads.com/topic/show/...>

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## **Kristan says**

### **My face hurts from smiling.**

Travis and Benny have been best friends for 18 years. They live together, created a business together, and as so intertwined in each other's lives that neither would change it, even if they could.

But there's something missing; Benny sleeps around to fill a void he won't allow himself to feel, and Travis focuses his attentions into his work as a chef in their catering company. Neither will allow themselves to touch on the feelings that have been there for as long as they can remember. A little frientervention in the form of an intimacy date night, and the walls these two have built up, finally come crumbling down.

It could have been their caring for each other that had me smiling. Maybe it was their answering of intimate questions or being forced to look into each other's eyes for 4 minutes straight. Or maybe it was the moment when they finally began to trust that wherever their relationship took them, they'd still have each other. But really, it was the ending. It really was a perfect ending.

I wish that Travis and Benny had been a tad more distinctive. I feel there were a few times that they blurred together because they were so similar. But they got their HEA, and I loved watching them get there, so who am I to complain?

My thanks to the author for their effort and participation in the Love is an Open Road event.

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## **Elsbeth says**

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### **PHOTO DESCRIPTION:**

Two unclothed men stand side-by

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## **Pixie says**

The thing is I just didn't like this. I've spent the last day trying to figure out what about it just did not work for me. I mean I was excited based on the premise...I can't remember one book I've read where two guys who were both gay, knew they were each gay, and were best friends yet just hadn't gone there with each other. I racked my brain but zero, which is a bit annoying because I have a lot of gay friends and strangely enough they have a lot of gay friends and typically I find that they mostly haven't slept together. Weirdly I like dick too and have gay friends and don't have any interested in sleeping with them, so it happens, yet in the books I read it's all gay guy has nothing but straight friends until one BAM is all gfy. So again I was beyond excited. Let's get some lifelong friendship feels developing into an actual strong bond and sustainable relationship built on something other than sex here.

BUT I kept getting confused as to who was Travis and who was Benny (which I hate that name for a 29 year old man BTW) they felt very similar especially with their mutual feelings and internal monologue about how they didn't know whether the other one felt the way or if crossing the line would ruin their friendship. I also wanted them to sound/feel more like grown men verses just out of college boys. They were approaching 30, co-owned a business, were sharing a house, had employees yet they didn't feel mature to me. When I started to feel like we might be getting somewhere with the intimate speed date that wasn't (really silly concept to me) instead of these two continuing on the road to open communication they act like children and resort to silence and getting drunk (more frat boy behavior here). By the end I honestly started thinking "huh well that explains it maybe gfy is the way to go".

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### **Tess says**

\*3.5 stars\*

Nice friends to lovers romance.

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### **Ele says**

This was lovely. Loved the slow burn .Great job!

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### **Mona says**

2.5

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

~4.25~

*Ask, Answer, Look, Kiss* is an endearing best-friends-to-lovers tale featuring two likeable MCs who run a successful catering business.

I enjoyed every moment of this story. The slow burn and smoldering sexual tension were delicious, and jealous Benny was kind of adorable.

I liked the dual POV and the great secondary characters, although I can't say I'd ever be willing to participate in Intimate Speed Dating. Holy awkward ... unless you're Travis and Ben.

The MCs connect on an emotional and physical level, and they actually talk through their fears and desires. Loved that!

The last chapter was just the cherry on this sweet, sweet sundae!

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## **Lisa says**

Two men who have been friends for 18 years go to a 'speed dating' night to help out their friend. The questions cause them to think about what they really want.

A nice story about mis or no communication between 2 men who were perfect for each other but only faced it when their friends made them.

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## **Susan says**

This was a nice friend to lovers story, but not that special.

What I wanted was:

**You're my best friend.**

**I love you.**

**Let's have sex.**

What I got was:

**You're my best friend.**

**I'm so afraid.**

**Let's stay friends.**

**Wait, you want more?**

**No, let's stay friends.**

**Come on, let's talk, again.**

**Why do you want me?**

**Can we do this?**

**Let's have sex.**

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## **Ami says**

### **2.75 stars rounded up**

Best friends to lovers and slow-burn romance? Should've been a treasure gold for me, yes? Well, the story is initially good -- I liked that intimate speed dating session (I think I read about the 'looking into your partner eyes for few minutes' thing somewhere).

However, I personally thought the story lost its momentum when both men decided to go the other way (one running away, one getting drunk) after that speed dating session. Afterwards, it just felt dragging, and I lost interest completely.

And I'm probably one of those people who would totally hates it if my friends are being nosy about my love life. Once okay, but keep pushing me like so? I could snap. Maybe I'm just stubborn.

I'll round it up for the first half.

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## **Morgan Skye says**

This is a best friends to lovers story. Travis and Ben have been friends and business partners forever. They are both gay but – due to \* reasons \* - they've never even kissed.

When a wacky friend does a strange “intimate speed dating” event, the two participate and it launches them from friends to lovers.

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I never quite bought into this story. If you look at the picture – two burly dudes all tatted up – it never really jives with the personal caterers that we have in this story. I also never bought that for 16 years the two never got a smidgen of attraction and then suddenly – POW – instant forever love.

Sure, it's a short story, but it can be done and in this case it isn't done very effectively.

I liked the idea and the writing was fine, but I didn't think the picture matched the story at all and I didn't buy the intimate speed dating thing at all.

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