



By Design

Lisa Worrall

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Robbie Cooper gets more than he bargains for when Shane Donald walks into his shop, photograph in hand, asking Robbie to tattoo the likeness on his skin. There's something about the photograph and the way Shane talks about him that ignites a spark deep inside Robbie, and he longs to know more. But will he like what he hears, and will he be able to control his instant attraction to his client?

By Design Details

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From Reader Review By Design for online ebook

Sunny says

Short, but sweet, and I immediately read it again :)

JustJen "Miss Conduct" says

Review written for Hearts On Fire Reviews - **4.5 stars**

Robbie is the owner/operator/artist of his own tattoo shop that has become quite successful over its initial year of operation. Unfortunately, making his dream a reality has taken long hours, keeping him from home and his boyfriend.

When Shane enters the shop one late night with a special tattoo request, Robbie knows he cannot turn Shane away. Over the evening, Robbie is reminded about what he has in his life, how he has changed and what is important to him.

I really enjoyed this quick little hot story. It was well written, and even though it is over quickly, you are given plenty of detail to know exactly what is going on and just enough information to figure out what is really happening.

I loved how this all played out and didn't make us wait too long to see it happen. Yet, at the same time, it was over way too fast. I want more of these interesting smexy guys!

Gigi says

Re-read Novemebr 2015: just as good as the first read!

Fuck!!!! Just read it!!! The whole thing.

Ann says

Holy Hell!

I read this one awhile back as it was part of the Hearts of England anthology (one of my absolute favorite anthologies ever). It's not available anymore to buy or lend, at least on Amazon, and I've wanted to recommend it so many times but couldn't without just being a big ol' tease.

This story was just so - WOW! It was one of those perfectly paced shorts that gave just enough, not too

much and left you wanting more of the characters but completely satisfied.

There isn't too much I can say without giving away massive spoilers and you really just have to read it without knowing too much and just appreciate Robbie's journey.

So good, can't recommend it enough!

Bev says

Hot little novella that I picked up from Silver Publishing unfortunately...(don't like SP at all after their treatment of some of my fave authors), but it's Lisa's choice!! 4.5 stars and from me!!

All I'm saying is that Robbie owns a tattoo parlour in York, and because he's talented and a lot of people congregate around York because of the ghosts etc., his business is doing very nicely thank you. He's having a few problems with his boyfriend who doesn't seem to understand that owning your own business requires self sacrifice and long hours. Robbie is working those long hours one evening when an unexpected customer comes in....I'll leave you to pick the story up from here.

Tina says

Rob, an overworked tattoo artist, neglects his boyfriend. A customer requesting a special tattoo reminds Rob of what's really important in life.

Loved it! This amazing but way too short glimpse at Rob and Shane's life was like an appetizer.
I.Want.More! :)))

„•*°*~Gwendolyn~°**★°**★ says

3 Stars

Wonderful glimpse into a lover's tale, that I wish was just a wee bit longer, BUT...it's soooooo good and told ever-so sweetly~

Elsbeth says

4,5 stars

Beautiful, emotional story.
Sometimes some sacrifices are just not worth it!!

"Things are different now. HE'S different. Or at least he thinks he has to be. I just want to remind him who he is.... and who's waiting for him.

"You think he needs reminding?"

"Sometimes. I think we all need a little reminder of what we've got on occasion. If not... the gap might get too big to bridge."

Shirley Frances says

Rob owns his tattoo parlor, which means long hours drawing and designing. This in turn means less time at home with his partner. Missed dinners and broken engagements have been happening a lot more often lately. But what can Rob do? He has to work the business to make some business. Then in comes Shane, requesting a tattoo and enlightening Rob in the process.

Lisa Worrall did an amazing job of presenting the facts clearly so the reader could easily decide to be on Rob's side or not. The characters were interesting and their dialog was both honest and revealing. I loved how palpable their connection was and how hot their chemistry got to be in that one encounter. These are characters that I would love to get to know more.

By Design was a short sexy read with an interesting twist, intriguing characters and sizzling chemistry.

Lauren says

4.5 stars - This is an awesome little story - for such a short story, it sure as hell leaves an impression! It was hot, cute and just a wonderful read if you're looking for something to quick and easy that will leave you smiling. I wont say anything else, just... READ THIS! ;) Oh, and I bloody LOVE Robbie. What a cutie!

Also, does anyone know if this was ever released before, or posted somewhere? Because, as I was reading it, I got the strangest feeling that I had read it before. I thought perhaps this was a re-release or that Lisa posted it on her website or something before, but maybe I'm just going crazy...!

Susan says

Rob owns his own tattoo shop, but he has been neglecting his boyfriend.

When a beautiful man wants a tattoo of his lover tattooed on his chest, Rob is reminded of what he has at

home.

"I think we all need a little reminder of what we've got on occasion. If not... the gap might get too big to bridge."

Hot, sweet, and with a beautiful message.

Trisha Harrington says

This short story... Let me start off by saying I have facepalmed myself so many times since reading this book. When you start reading this, even though it's a short, you need to finish it. The book threw me off so badly and then... I am still embarrassed thinking I was going to hate this book.

I won't give too much away, but I loved this short. Lisa Worrall is a great author and I have loved a few of her books, this was another one of those. Rob and Shane... Not everything is as it seems. That's what I loved about it. But at the same time, it's not angsty necessarily and I did smile through some of it.

It was a sexy story that had the perfect amount of detail for the short. Yet I wasn't left not knowing what was going on. I would gladly read another short story about these two... It's nice when you are left with a happy feeling inside, especially after a short when you would normally be left wondering.

It was over quickly but... it was still perfect!

I won a copy of this from the author!!

Macky says

Loved this short story about Robbie a tattoo Artist who is in a long term relationship with his partner but when one night a brand new client (Shane) turns up out of the blue and asks him to do him an impromptu special tattoo from a photo of his own lover, it makes Rob look at his own relationship with new eyes and the man in his chair becomes a temptation that he's not sure he can resist!

This might only be a short, almost bitesize interlude but its really keeps you invested in the story, plus its not as straightforward as you think so there's a little tease in there too. A story doesn't always have to be novel length to deserve a high rating and this is a great example of why. I Loved it... Plus its a Lisa Worall short so that makes it even better!

Justin says

4.5 stars

This book was recommended to me by a sweet friend here on GR so I had no concerns about diving right in.

The story starts off quite nicely. There's a bit of humorous banter between one of the MCs and his shop assistant as the characters start to develop and the story begins to unfold. Everything is kicking along rather smoothly. I'm enjoying the simple yet effective writing. The plot is thickening and the sexual tension is building. Oh this is good.... And then, WHAM! WTF?? (view spoiler) No Way!! Why in the hell would someone recommend (view spoiler) story to me? And then it hit me. They wouldn't. As the imaginary choir in my head began to sing "Hallelujah" I realized just what was happening. Awwww, how sweet is that!

Lovely short story. Highly recommended.

Ann, you are forgiven! <3

Serena Yates says

When a job, or in this case starting your own business and making it a success, becomes more important than your lover and partner, you know you're in trouble. Robbie, in this beautifully written story, has realized he is neglecting his boyfriend, but has no idea how to snap out of it. After all, he can't stop working hard and making his tattoo shop a success, can he? Robbie has even changed his appearance to reflect what he thinks his customers expect an up-and-coming tattoo artist to look like. Then again, he loves his boyfriend too much to risk their partnership.

Truly caught between a rock and a hard place, Rob knows there is no easy solution and reverts to his default solution: focusing on making beautiful designs and transforming them into perfect tattoos. The man who walks in one late afternoon is a definite distraction. Shane's unusual request of having a photograph of someone who is clearly important to him tattooed onto his body makes Robbie think he wants to know more about the guy's reasoning for this activity. If he can control his raging attraction to the man...

If you like stories about relationships in trouble, if you enjoy a (possibly somewhat expected) twist at the end of it, and if you're looking for a short, passionate read about a man who has lost his way and urgently needs to find it so he can get close to his lover again, then you will probably like this short story.
