



Go Fish

H.T. Murray

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Ian and Cal have known each other since they were kids. When Cal offers to let Ian move in with him, Ian doesn't even let the fact that Cal is gay factor in. It's supposed to be a joke when Ian brings home a fish bowl with no fish, but when Cal buys fish and comes into Ian's room to check on them, Ian starts seeing more of Cal than he'd counted on, and liking what he sees. There's really only one logical way for Ian to sort out his feelings for Cal. Buy more fish. Soon, he's a regular hobbyist with an excuse to get Cal in his bedroom several times a day. He has no idea what to do once they're there. Throw in Marcy- the adorable pet store geek who keeps him plied with bait- a bad chili dog, a game of strip Go Fish, and a raging case of food poisoning, and Ian's about to lose his gay virginity the way only he could... ass backward.

Go Fish Details

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From Reader Review Go Fish for online ebook

Nikyta *Miss Forgetful* says

This was a super cute and funny read. Ian and Cal are hilarious. I loved their relationship and how they start to develop something because of Ian's fish. Those poor fish. Marcy was a nice edition to this short and definitely should be given a reward for getting Ian and Cal together. I loved the book but the ending of it seemed abrupt as well as sex filled. Since the book has barely any sex, I was shocked that it ended with an almost nonstop sex scene which put me off a bit. Still, I enjoyed the story and I'm looking forward to reading more of them and hopefully seeing how their relationship develops further.

Candice says

All I can say is if you are looking for a book that is light and give you a good laugh, this is the one.

Stacey Jo says

This was a very cute and sweet short story of two long time best friends who finally see each other as more than just BFFs and take the plunge. One is gay while the other is straight, or maybe not as straight as he thought. Through a series of mishaps, and a fishbowl for an excuse, that they finally come together. A really good read!

Camille Adams says

I really appreciate the means by which I got to read this. Gigi generously loaned it to me. It's out of print now so I was happy to get it at all.

Unfortunately, it wasn't to my liking. It's very slapstick and I was overdosing on the brand of humour employed here: rambling, double entendres, silly witticisms, self effacing and mocking, overly jocular/never ever serious etc.

Then there was the oxymoronic purpleness of the prose and Spartan action in the sex scenes. So, this book is accomplished if this type of writing suits your fancy, in other words YMV. For me, it was a no-go.

But the biggest issue for me is the utter lack of transition and development that typifies a GFY :-s

Vio says

Just what I needed as a pick me up, so hilarious and such a fun read I had to control myself with my outbursts of sudden laughter. I thought Ian and Cal would never get it together every attempt was one

disaster after another, the fish were the secret matchmakers in them both finally getting it right. I loved it, this story was cute and entertaining perfect for anyone wanting a sweet and lovely romance!

Thanks Sims for recommending this!

Kassa says

This is a very cute and funny story about two best friends that fall in love. The humorous touches make the light narrative one that is just flat out adorable and fun to read. The narrative style is pretty informal with a lot of internal musing and physical antics which works well in the short length but I would have been annoyed with if the story had gone on longer. If you're looking for a cute, fun story with a lot of laugh out loud moments, this bit of comic genius is a must read.

The story is basically about two best friends that live together and finally get together. Cal is openly gay while Ian is so far straight but he starts to notice Cal's body more and more and decides that he wants something more than friendship from his tall, lanky friend. Ian decides that the way to Cal's heart, well his body anyway, is to buy a lot of fish that Cal has to check up on in Ian's room. There is of course more to the story as Ian's thought process of awkward, manly seduction wrapped around fish care affords a lot of great, entertaining dialogue and antics.

Ian reminded me of Jim Carey in some ways as his physical antics are humorous and over the top. These aren't bad and in the space of a pretty quick novella, they work very well injecting humor, sex, and fumbling between two cute men. If the story had been longer, the non-stop yuk yuk theme would have run stale and overused but it's quick enough that the entertainment factor remains high. Life isn't as easy as Ian just deciding he wants Cal as the seduction is offset by food poisoning, inappropriate vibrating cell phones, fish care, and any number of issues that crop up so the two never quite get the chance to seal to the deal.

The writing tries hard to be funny and succeeds most of the time, helped by the sole secondary character of Mercy the geeky pet shop employee. The underlying fun and glee of the story translates and it makes you want to laugh and enjoy the ridiculous and clumsy antics of Ian, who attempts to be a mans-man but never agonizes over his attraction to Cal. I liked that there was no real angst about suddenly being gay for Cal but instead it focused on the stop/start seduction between the two. This could have ended slightly sooner but I have no real complaints.

Overall this is a funny, cute, and thoroughly entertaining story that is perfect for the length. There are some hinges that could become annoying to readers but the very quick pace should keep these to a minimum. If you're looking for a light comedic romance, try this.

Simsala says

Cute and funny Screwball(-driver)-Comedy with matchmaking fish and hot s..!

Mandy*reads obsessively* says

I first read this one in March 2011 but for some reason didn't rate or review it. Deeze brought it back to my attention with her review and I decided to reread it.

Humor is hard to do, describing physical slapstick like accidents is difficult, at least to make it so I can picture it and think it's cute.

The author managed it with this one though and of course the fish shopping was cute.

Cal and Ian have been best friends forever, we don't really get Cal's thoughts but it's still pretty clear they have been lusting for each other for a while, even if Ian is just now finding out that he is gay, or at least gay for Cal.

They never would have managed on their own, the help of some very influential and manly fish were needed..some even died for true love to find it's way..*sniff* and the help of one sort of geeky pet store employee and glow in the dark stones...

Cute, short and funny, my only issue was sometimes I just wasn't sure who was who during the dialogs..but that could have just been me.

Chris says

This m/m romance was great fun! I laughed out loud more than a few times at some of the wonderfully clever bits, such as this: "He had no idea why he was thinking with dramatic pauses now. He just was." Or this: 'He was not pouting. 'Yes, you were.' He was not doing a very good job of keeping his inner thoughts inner, either.'

Heather C says

Cute, funny story about two best friends who use fish to bring themselves closer together.

R.I.P. Scrappy I, II, and III

Bubbles Hunty Honest & Direct Opinions says

I liked this short story it was so funny but it lacked development in the end the last 20% or so seems to be focused on sex and I would have rather had it focus on how their relationship developed after they had sex instead of focusing on the sex

Meep says

Up until the first kiss this book is a big smile of cute goofyness. I loved it. Unfortunately (for me) it went rapidly downhill from there and I ended up skimming to the end.

There's a very chatty feel to the writing that's a bit marmite, and the humour is all physical slapstick which is never my favourite - this could therefore be a case of not-for-me.

I liked the fish, they were cute. A couple of times I couldn't quite figure out what was going on though, it felt

like information was missing. A big issue was how young the characters seemed considering they'd presumably be at least mid-twenties, what with married friends and having lived several places; it got irritating. There were also a few references I didn't get - Pedialyte, classic Calgon fashion? (I thought Calgon was a water purifier the context confused me)

A side character Macey goes from the girl at the pet shop to suddenly having their phone number and being privy to personal info - a classic slash-loving fanfic girl, all she needed was a crush on one of them.

It becomes focused on sex, I'd rather have watched the fish! Food poisoning just isn't sexy! But that first bit? That first bit is cute.

? Irena ? says

You cannot find this story anywhere now. I've read it thanks to a friend. There are so many crappy stories around that I don't understand why this isn't available anymore.

You've probably read a few *friends to lovers* stories already, so you know what to expect. Cal and Ian are roommates too. What you probably haven't read about are all kinds of jinxed ways Ian is trying to seduce his best friend. There is nothing pathetic about him. His stubborn persistence combined with bad luck are hilarious.

Jenre says

I was attracted to this story because it sounded like quite a fun little read. After all the angsty books I've been reading recently, I fancied something light and this cute little Gay For You story involving two best friends whose fish buying habits bring them together was just the ticket.

Ian and Cal have been friends since childhood. Ian has recently moved in with Cal after his last flatmate got married and he couldn't afford the rent on his own. Cal is gay and Ian is straight but obviously lives in bisexual denial as he covertly checks out Cal's assets:

Cal was bent over his clothes hamper, one hip cocked, wearing nylon running shorts over black spandex leggings that went to mid-thigh. Probably chilly outside that morning. There were still sweat stains under the arms of his t-shirt, and it clung to his lower back in a way that really framed his ass.

Not that Ian had ever thought about framing Cal's ass.

In order to make his new room seem less barren, Ian buys a fish bowl, then Cal gets some fish for it, then Ian buys more fish, then they need a bigger tank, all the while there's lots of flirting and special looks as the tension grows between them. Unfortunately neither man is willing to break the deadlock for fear of ruining their friendship.

There was much to like about this book. The story is written from Ian's third person point of view and he's a very accessible narrator. I found myself laughing a number of times over his protestations that he isn't gay and also his attempts to cover up any conversational slips where he may come across as being girly in any way:

"I like the water. When the sun shines through, it makes little rainbows on the wall..." Now he was the one

*making the what-the-f*ck face. He could not believe he'd just said that. He cleared his throat again, because, what the hell, that couldn't possibly seem dodgier than the blush already burning up his cheeks. "And, um, I get chapped in the winter. Thought it would be like a humidifier." Oh, yeah, good save. Dermal hydration issues were way manlier than little rainbows.*

I also liked the easygoing relationship between Cal and Ian. It's obvious that their friendship runs deep as they have a whole lot of shared history. Their conversations containing much light-hearted banter and casual insults were humorous and also very realistic. Even the growing sexual tension between them didn't spoil their relationship as this was mostly ignored, like a large elephant in the room. As this is only a short story there wasn't really room for many other characters but I really enjoyed the friendship that firstly Ian and then Cal develops with Marcy, the shop assistant at the pet store, who has a delightfully dry sense of humour.

The mark of a good comic story is in the laugh ratio which was high with this story. I found myself snorting with laughter on several occasions, especially at Ian's many humorous observations and asides and the way that Ian finally decides to take control and attempts to seduce Cal over a game of strip go-fish. This humour contrasted nicely with Ian's increasing frustration leading up to a delightfully satisfying conclusion when the men finally decide to acknowledge their feelings for one another.

The story wasn't without fault. I sometimes found it a little difficult to picture the positioning of the characters especially when they were together. I was also getting a tad impatient with Cal and Ian as they continued to pussy-foot round each other and felt that this bit was perhaps drawn out too much. However, don't let these little niggles put you off what was basically a smart, funny friends to lovers story which I would recommend to anyone looking for something to put a smile on your face and warm your heart.

Deeze says

I'm not a fan of GFY but this one felt right.

The humour is great, I was laughing out loud in the pet shop, and the comedy of errors after kept me chuckling.

Ian and Cal make a great couple. But as always this is a short so don't expect too many details on backgrounds.

A sweet little coming together read with laughs aplenty.
