



The Summer Gardener

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Alejandro Moreno drops out of college and puts aside his dream of a degree in landscape design to take care of his mother and younger brother. Then he gets the chance to restore a strange and unpopular patch of land with an uncanny inhabitant-Fane, a prickly fairy. At first, Alejo isn't thrilled to share the space with the annoying fae, but as they work together on the neglected garden, both men discover they have two things in common: a love for working with the natural world and loneliness. But how can Alejo handle feelings for not just another man, but one who isn't human at all?

The Summer Gardener Details

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From Reader Review The Summer Gardener for online ebook

Fi Brit says

Really 3.5 stars.

A sweet fantasy. I found myself really caught up in the magic. Unfortunately the writer missed the mark emotionally and that left things feeling rather light weight.

EmeArsh says

It was cute and sweet. So sweet. But not much on the whole plot thing.

Elisa Rolle says

If you think that fairies (and yes, I'm talking about the real thing, the little fae people with colourful wings) are charming and pretty, you haven't yet met Fane; fine is little, barely nine inches tall, but he doesn't like to be called pretty, and for sure he uses his charm only on who he likes, and he doesn't like many people. He is the guardian of a garden, and he allows inside it only gardener he likes, and lucky Alejo, Fane likes him.

Alejo is a big but gentle man, young and innocent, yes, innocent as virgin; from a very traditional Spanish family, he is not the man of it, meaning that he has to provide for his mother and little brother; he does it working a construction job on winter and as gardener on summer, even if being a gardener was his true dream. Now he has no money to continue his landscaping studies, and he nurtures his love for plants nurturing the garden. Fane understands that Alejo is better than the other humans, nearer to nature, and so he almost forces the big man to become his friend, and something more.

It's really funny to see how a little thing like Fane can be bossy and domineering of bigger Alejo, and he can probably do that since Alejo is not really an imposing man; sometime I had even the impression that Alejo is too much mite and quite, but it was in his character and probably the only way for Fane to convince him, a straight boy, that in the Fae world there is no gender, no distinction between men and women, and you love who you like and not who you have to.

It's a strange contemporary world the one in which this story is set; a world where there is Starbucks and Barbie (otherwise where Fane would have found his late '70 furniture), but where fairies are pretty common, and live among people, in the garden, and no one seems to find it strange. It was so normal that after a bit, even the reader found it ordinary, and the love story between the nine inches fairy and the big gardener was right, even if not ordinary.

I really like as the author let the reader understood of Fane different nature, the little details that gave you the idea that Fane was indeed little, but that were so natural that didn't feel strange. Even if Fane is a otherworldly creature, in this little story he was only another man in love, a man who can feel loneliness and also pain, normally an immortal creature, but if you wound him, he bleeds like everyone else. Basically the story is light, but there is a subdued bittersweet undertone that mixes well with the plot.

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B002VJ9HTI/?...>

Grandmat says

Delightful, whimsical, and just plain lovely.

Kassa says

Although I disliked Irving's previous offering, *The Janitor*, I wanted to give the author another try. Unfortunately after reading the train wreck that is *Summer Gardener*, Irving's writing is definitely not for me. There are numerous readers who have praised her work so perhaps others will enjoy her books more than I did. This particular offering is poorly written with a lazy way of showing emphasis through random italicized words in combination with a loose plot and bad characterization. There are glimpses of humor that shine in the mess of this paranormal story but the writing, prose, and characters definitely overwhelmed the few humorous touches.

The plot is loosely based on a hispanic man who drops out of school while pursuing his master's degree to take care of his ailing mother and younger brother. To do so, he takes a job tending one of the city's numerous gardens and encounters a rather annoying and obstinate fairy. Although this fairy is only nine inches tall, the two become so close that sexual sparks fly. When the moon is full and fairy magic high, the opportunity to consummate their relationship becomes a reality. Unfortunately human responsibilities may force the two new lovers apart.

There is something inherently humorous about a nine inch obnoxious naked fairy that is determined to run the garden his way in spite of what any pesky, annoying human thinks. Unfortunately the gardener, Alejo, is a Gary Stu character. He is a virgin with a vow of chastity for reasons never explained, who gave up his education to take care of his family while working low wage paying jobs. He saves small animals and tailless snakes while being humble about his attractive good looks and self effacing to his many great qualities. He sacrifices his own happiness to help his family, which causes much angst and emotional depression, and ultimately needs a band of fairies to help him keep his job because Alejo is too wrapped up in his personal angst to figure out a solution to his problems. Alejo is also not gay and is only attracted to the fairy because of the pheromones Fane produces. Alejo can't quite accept that he's having gay fairy sex once a month, taking every opportunity to "break up" with Fane.

Despite his education, Alejo speaks in a mixture of bad Spanish and broken English. Considering the education he was working towards, the dialogue is deplorable and the characterization is inconsistent. The writing does not help the story at all from poor descriptions to pronoun confusion and an overabundance of italics. The story has a lazy way of using emphasis, italicizing various words instead of showing through words and actions. There are at least 75 random italicized words to show emphasis. This tendency to use italics is repeated with various internal dialogue phrases as well. However, the internal dialogue alternates between third person and first person without any consistency or reason. The story is told in alternating third person point of view between Fane and Alejo, but the changes to point of view in the internal, italicized dialogue are seemingly random.

The prose tends to be repetitive with words such as *wee* and *Joder!* used too many times. This keeps the descriptive quality of the story low and uninteresting. There is a lack of any depth to the descriptions and little vitality and energy. Not to mention the weird and unexplained pseudo bondage fantasy Alejo has out of the blue which leads to Fane calling him "boy" and "pet." Where this came from is a mystery and although

the idea of using floss as bondage while on Barbie's dream bed for two fairies is humorous, the scene is cringe inducing. Here's a taste:

Alejo lifted up to meet the club inside him, his wings folded behind him, somehow the sensations that lived in his nipples, balls, and cock also translating pleurably there since his fairy body seemed more sensual than his regular one.

Fane stroked his cock like a friendly pet. And that easily, lifted Alejo to climax again. "Boy, my boy," he murmured as Alejo spilled, hands balled above his head, neck corded, feeling Fane's cool release oddly comforting inside him.

Ultimately the resolution takes place off page as Fane, the fairy, somehow convinces a city garden board to allow Alejo to keep his job in the face of the evil manager. There is also no strong happy ending, a vague happy for now with Fane and Alejo together but Alejo still barely admits he has a boyfriend, let alone a fairy boyfriend.

I wanted to like this story because the touches of humor really stand out rather well, such as Fane's comment about his ex-boyfriend being stuffy and reformed plant rights' activist. Unfortunately the poor writing, bad characterization, and badly executed plot just failed on every level, so much that even those moments of humor couldn't save this book. If you're a fan of this author, perhaps you'll enjoy this offering but there are much better stories for your money.

Gwengwel says

I was not able to believe in the story.

.. • * ° *!Gwendolyn!°**★°**★ says

This was recommended to me by a goodreads friend, and even though this writer is hit and miss for me~I still wanted to give this a try...BUT, sadly for me another miss for me

Stacey says

This was a fun read. An intriguing love story between a garden fairy and a gardener who's just discovering his sexuality...and the complications of falling for a fairy--literally.

Serena Yates says

I really liked this short book because the characters were lovable and the story was slightly unusual. Alejo is a young gardener who believes he's straight until he runs into Fane, a tiny fairy who's the guardian of the garden Alejo is in charge of over the summer. The two become friends and, thanks to Fane's magical ability

to turn Alejo into a fairy once a month, they eventually become lovers. Add a little intrigue due to the fact that the gardener's owner doesn't agree with Alejo's environmentally friendly gardening methods and you've got a fun read.

Jason Bradley says

I enjoyed this story and the characters were lovable. The problems I saw with this story were (1.) The way the story jumped around without warning or explanation. (2.) Some of the dialog was confusing and also a bit of the narrative. It was almost as if it was worded by someone who was not completely familiar with the English language. This did not pull me from the story enough to keep it from being a delight to read.
