



Love Hurts

Jim Butcher

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An e-book short story by *New York Times* bestselling author Jim Butcher, originally published in the anthology SONGS OF LOVE AND DEATH, edited by George R.R. Martin and Gardner Dozois. Also available in Side Jobs.

Love Hurts Details

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From Reader Review Love Hurts for online ebook

Arnis says

<https://poseidons99.wordpress.com/201...>

Angie (Mind Malfunction) says

Love Hurts is book 11.5 in the Dresden Files, an Urban Fantasy Series by Jim Butcher. In this story, Harry assists Murphy with a double suicide. This is the second double suicide in twelve days and the pattern draws enough suspicion for Murphy to call in Harry. The couples were infatuated with each other, found dead and wrapped in each other's arms. Harry discovers the last "suicide" couple were siblings and presumes a mind manipulation. Murphy looks into a connection between the couples and Harry questions everyone in his address book and comes up with nothing. Murphy discovers that each couple attended the fair and its a good place to start looking for clues. They spend the day searching and when the sun goes down, Harry feels a magical source. They pursue a lead that takes them into the tunnel of terror and leave with deeper feelings for one another. They kiss, hold hands, and decide they are perfect for one another and meant to be. Harry realizes that this is too good to be true, so they must have been mind manipulated. Murphy questions him and when he replies that this is Harry and Murphy, nothing works out easily for them, she realizes that he's right. They return to the Tunnel of Terror were they track down a vampire of the red court. She's been making couples fall in love and only a few go crazy enough to kill themselves. By making couples head over heels, she's taking food away from the vampires of the white court and creating more food for the red court. She threatens Harry and when she doesn't stop, Murphy puts a few chambers of bullets in her head. They both are still in love, so Harry seeks out an artifact as the source. When they find the piece of leather, Harry and Murphy both want to keep it safe and hold on to their feelings. They know its wrong though and share a deep good bye kiss before Harry turns it to ash. Of course, when the artifact is destroyed, they realize that they have obstacles keeping them apart. Poor Harry. Always the loner. I love Harry Dresden and as much as I want him to be happy, I secretly want him to stay a loner until the bitter end.

Malinda says

3.5-4 stars

This was a pretty enjoyable short story. It involved Harry and Murphy investigating the deaths of multiple couples. While tracking the bad guy, Harry and Murphy get caught in a bit of a thrall that makes them want each other. They pull out of it and catch the bad guy but I kind of wish they hadn't come to their senses... Despite my disappointment, it was still a pretty good short. :)

* read as apart of the Side Jobs Anthology.

Sammm says

3.5-star

Interesting... Didn't know they consider Murphy still with Kincaid at this point.

Adam Fisher says

Such a heartstrings puller!

Dresden and Murphy are investigating a homicide that appears to be love related. Through both magical and standard police practices, they track the leads to a "Tunnel of Terror" ride at the Illinois State Fair. Bribing the carnie to take a look around, they find themselves getting flirty with each other (including a first kiss) and realize they are under the influence of a love spell. Finding a secret hatch in the ride, they come across a lab and Baroness LeBlanc of the Red Court, who is causing this love as a way to weaken the White Court. Fight breaks out and Leblanc is killed, which leads them back to the seat beats on the ride that have been instilled with rune magic (similar to the Wolf Belts from "Fool Moon"). Burning them, the love between Harry and Murphy dissolves, and we the reader, are left to wonder why they don't get together for real. Great story, great writing, well thought out and a joy to read. High recommend.

Nicole says

Something about this didn't quite work for me, but I'm always happy to see Harry.

Indah Threaz Lestari says

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Tricia says

read in Side Jobs

I know I mentioned in Last Call that I was not impressed with Murphy's mind being messed with, but I feel that this instance was a completely different cup of tea. This "influence" was very obviously built off of something that was already there. I about cried at their kiss and found my heart begging to just leave that damn seat belt alone!

Monica Rodriguez says

I only read the short story "Love Hurts" by Jim Butcher. This one is such a tease! It gives us what we've (okay, I've) been waiting for - almost. Then takes it away completely. :-p

Cansky says

Because of this I'm going to have to read the last half of the series again. God damn it, knowing Murphy was

at one time with Kincaid and how fucked Harry's relationship with Anastasia was, I just feel so bad for the dude. How can you just do that? This story has to have a sneaky sequel somewhere. I'm so ready to dive into my 2nd read-through of the series.

Kyoko M. says

Hey, do you like feeling like Jim Butcher walked up and punched you in the sternum with brass knuckles? Then you'll love "Love Hurts!"

My God, I can't even describe how much of a love/hate relationship I have with this short story. It's so good, and yet it's also like voluntarily allowing someone to torture you for half an hour and then thanking them afterward. I mean, some people are into that, but Christ almighty, this story HURTS.

Harry and Murphy aren't quite starcrossed lovers, but they're pretty damn close. They have solid, unshakable obligations and reasons why they can't be together, but they have such a deep friendship and love for each other that you can see them struggling with it anyway. There is no doubt these two idiots are in love. It's too late to escape by now, but the cost of ever consummating their relationship would be extremely high, and so they just suffer through staying friends.

This was a great side story for Butcher to write just because it deserves its own little bit of attention independent from the plot-heavy novels. Harry and Murphy would be an incredible couple if they ever got together, but he does point out that it would be tumultuous to say the least. Murphy has all kinds of baggage, as does Harry, and it would be heinous sorting through it all to get to that happy ending. The story reflects the state of their relationship at the time--tons of heat, tons of loyalty, tons of chemistry, and tons of issues. It's a Catch 22.

Until Peace Talks comes out, we have no real answer to the Harry/Murphy conundrum, but it seems like they've finally reached the point where they would rather take the risk than keep pretending they aren't madly in love with each other. I'm down with that. Sure, it'll hurt big time, but whatever, I think these two can go the distance. Also, I really need them to have sex (for real *glares at Skin Game*). Like, now. Right now. Clothes off, Dresden and Murphy. If Peace Talks doesn't open with you two banging the hell out of each other, I will hunt Jim Butcher down like a dog.

...seriously, though, this story is awesome and you should read it and be miserable like the rest of the Harry/Murphy fandom.

Quintin Zimmermann says

Answers the question (that shouldn't be asked): Can Harry and Murphy live happily ever after?

Kara-karina says

short and fun!

Vicky says

A short story which is part of The Desden Files series, which I haven't read. I like short stories because they allow us readers to get a feel for a series before actually diving into it. I find there's so many urban fantasy series out there and only a few of them are of interest to me, I often seek out short stories for the sole purpose of weeding out what I'm going to read in that specific genre. Most of the time, by the end of the story, I know whether or not I'll be reading further into the series or not... This Time, however, I'm not sure, I'm still undecided. It's going to be one of those author I keep aside in case feeder feel like it.

The word that comes to mind to describe the writing is "efficient"; it does it's job quickly, without fuss or detour, I'm even going to risk saying it's a very masculine writing style (apologies to those who feel offended by my narrow mindedness ;)!). The story was thick with information on the related novels, so much so in the beginning that it was preventing me from getting into the story. There is such a thing as too much information, especially in a short story. Even if that information is delivered in an efficient manner. Usually, that would have immediately marked this series as a no go for me, but what puzzles me is that in so short a story, I got a really good feel for the characters, they seemed whole, not only one or two aspects of a more complex personality... I'm one of those readers who care more about the characters than about the stories, i've no problem reading stories that are about nothing as long as the characters interest me, while I'll abandon novels which show a great story but in which character creations has been neglected. As I'm writing this, I'm thinking that I'll probably venture into this series eventually... I'm curious, at least a little.

Sheyla ✂ says

This is a small novella as part of the Songs of Love and Death Anthology. In it, Harry and Murphy are investigating a case where couples are getting murdered. Someone is responsible and they need to find them before more people get hurt.

What I liked about the story is that Harry and Murphy do get to admit some of their feelings for each other. Their friendship is solid, but they haven't discussed what they feel for each other in a while. As always, things are not what they look like and they are lucky to be alive by the end of the story.

Now, I still have some hope that Harry can fall for Molly. I'm probably in the minority.

4/5 Fangs

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