



Risking the Field

Jean McGray

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Dear Author,

See these boys and how happy they look? Hmm, yeah, me too...

But what happens if all is not as it appears? If your best friend, the person you love is in danger— if sacrifices/hard decisions need to be made. Will you be strong enough to make them, to see them through? Can you risk your friendship? Can you risk letting your friend know your true feelings? Are you willing to risk anything to keep him safe?

Photo Description:

Two young men embrace and kiss passionately in a green field, one with a leg kicked out behind him, like he has just run across the field to tackle his friend and kiss him. They look like they are laughing and smiling, happy just to be together.

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.

Risking the Field Details

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From Reader Review Risking the Field for online ebook

Dana says

★★★★★ *Five stars!* ★★★★★

The perfect little gem to help me start the day with a smile on my face.

I've fallen in love with Davey and Pen!

Risking the Field is a wonderfully sweet story about two best friends discovering their love for each other on high school graduation day.

Although I'm usually not a big fan of young adult romances or friends to lovers, I absolutely loved Jean McGray's short story. I thought the writing was great - simple yet thoroughly detailed - I could envision everything as I read along. The interactions between Davey and Pen felt so real and believable. And the secondary characters were a fantastic addition.

I'd definitely love to read more Davey and Pen as they go through life's adventures together.

Finnegan says

Another great story in this year's collection of DRitC. Davey and Pen are best friends, constantly bickering and teasing each other, until a kiss change everything.

I liked this story, the dialogue was snappy and funny, and the affection they feel for each other felt deep and real. There was less angst than I thought there will be, but that might be good, because this was sweet but not too much fluff. Great story, thank you!

Catherine says

*** 4.25 Stars ***

First of all, that prompt picture? *dies at the cuteness*

I don't know why, but this story made me think of the intro to Tina Turner's version of "Proud Mary" - you know the part where's Tina's all like:

"You know, every now and then

I think you might like to hear something from us

Nice and easy

But there's just one thing

You see we never ever do nothing

Nice and easy

We always do it nice and rough

*So we're gonna take the beginning of this song
And do it easy
Then we're gonna do the finish rough"*

It's not so much the words themselves, but the *vibe* of the song's intro that this story reminded me of - like warmth and comfort and easy joy. Like sunshine and smiles and happiness. That's how Pen and Davey's friends-to-lovers story felt to me. There was just this bravery on Pen's part and this beautiful, easy acceptance on Davey's that warmed my heart and made me feel *good* as I was reading it. I loved these boys! I loved this story!

Kudos to the lovely Lori for the prompt (it was aces!) and to the massively talented Jean McGray for scooping it up and doing such a wonderful job with it. I'm begging you: please write more soon!

Tess says

4.25 stars Pretty darn sweet! I'm a huge fan of the friends to lovers trope. GFY? Not so much. In this one, I thought Davey embraced the change in relationship with Pen a little too quickly to be completely believable BUT, that being said, I still enjoyed this one a lot.

Ele says

3.5 stars

So much cuteness and fluffiness! Adorable story and steamy enough for YA. Nicely done!

Ami says

3.5 stars

All I can imagine right now is Lori being deliriously happy with how her prompt turned out :)

It is a really cute friends-to-lovers tale. Since the narration is written from the perspective of Davey, the object of his best friend's crush, it toned down the angst that usually came up from this kind of set-up. You know, with the pining, tension, and uncertainty. Sure Davey was surprised with the first kiss from Pen, but Davey quickly realized that he cared for Pen a great deal, and he didn't need a lot of time to 'go' for it. In addition, the story also happened in a day and a night -- on the day of their high school graduation -- so we didn't have to deal with too much drama.

I loved the kisses, I didn't care for the sex scenes. I also really didn't like the endearments used (*baby*, blech) but that was neither here nor there, because I'm sure no one will have the same problem *lol*.

Bottom line, it was another good prompt-turned-into-story coming from this event.

Heather C says

I LOVED this...it hit ALL my happy buttons!

4.5 Stars

Sandra says

Very cute story about two boys who are as close as brothers, but then become so much more, just as they are about to graduate from high school.

Well done. Nice epi too.

Lori says

Oh wow. *sighs*

This story was written for my prompt - and truly. for the second year running I feel like such a winner. What an amazing story.

Friends-to-lovers is my all time favourite storyline. There is something about the trust and love that already exists in a friendship that just makes the move into more just wonderful. Therefore my prompts tend to be of a friends-to-more variety - and Jean McGray has truly captured everything I was hoping for.

This short story shows us basically one day and night in the lives of these two friends - but it's the day and night when everything changes for them. Jean McGray has captured the moment so perfectly. i swear, the first (proper) kiss had me melt into a gooey puddle. It was so perfect, I'm such a sucker for kisses - I need those kisses more than sex in my books. Pen and Davey's first kiss in most definitely one of the best snogs I've read. It was beautiful.

Although this was set within just a twenty-four hour period (save the epilogue & prologue), I believed in the friendship between Pen and Davey, therefore I believed in teh developing relationship. Jean McGray did a wonderful job. The writing was light and witty and so easy to read. I swear I could read more and more about these two.

In fact, more than just those two, I also loved the secondary characters. Mom 1 and Mom 2 especially. I could feel their pain at having graduating sons! Children grow up WAAAAAY too quickly. It struck a chord.

Thank you so much Jean McGray for this story. It was everything and more than I hoped. <3 I love DAVEY and Pen. xx

Thank you to everyone involved in making this event happen. You are all fantastic!

Trisha Harrington says

4.5 stars!

This was a really lovely story. I love best friends to lovers stories when done right, like this one. And this really worked for me.

Pen and Dave had gone through similar things with divorce and their fathers leaving, which brought them closer together. Each thought the other was straight until a confession at their graduation.

The epilogue was the perfect touch. It was nice to see their main families (their moms and Pen's sister, Kari) were supportive!

R * A Reader Obsessed * says

This is probably the easiest, sweetest, quasi-double gfy out there!

BFF's Davey and Pen are graduating high school. The freedom of summer and going off to college together is all they can think about, until one kisses the other seemingly as a joke.

High on the emotions with a surprising amount of smexiness... Oh if only life and love were that simple!

Meags says

4 Stars

The whole friends-to-lovers trope is one of my all-time favourite book themes and this particular story delivered it in spades.

In the limited number of pages available, Jean McGray was able to establish some pretty impressive character development, allowing the reader to feel fully engaged in every moment of Davey and Pen's on-page journey. Granted, the story predominantly spans one 24 hour period of their lives — chronicling their High School graduation and the night ahead — but due to the remarkable writing, I was fully immersed in the changing relationship between these two adorably sweet boys.

The intimate scenes were both erotic and tender; everything from the sweetest of first kisses, to veiled hand brushes, to the first skin-on-skin action — it was all beautifully portrayed. This story elicited some pretty audible 'aww' type sounds from me, not to mention the stupid grin I had plastered across my face for the entirety of this story.

Basically, I loved everything about this one, from the fricken adorable prompt photo (seriously, guys, it's the

sweetest thing ever), to the awesome writing prompt provided by Lori. To McGray, I say, thanks for participating in this years event and I sincerely hope you write more beautiful stories for us to gobble up in the future!

Susan says

Pen and Davey are best friends about to graduate from high school.

I've said this many times, but best friend to lovers, OH YEAH BABY!

These guys were always joking with each other. Until one joke ends in a kiss. Davey never thought about Pen that way, but Pen admits he has been thinking about Davey like that for a while now.

I took a step forward and grasped his chin, raising his face until his eyes met mine. "You want to kiss me again? What's stopping you?" I asked.

"Nothing now," he breathed before leaning forward to brush his lips across mine.

This was a very very sweet story. I loved it. There is some light sex and no angst at all.

Amy says

As soon as I saw the picture and Lori's story prompt, I knew I had to read this one. I love YA! Especially new love, coming out, first times, etc. *dreamy sigh* I loved Pen and Davey. It may be a bit of a stretch to go from thinking you are 100% straight to kissing your best (male) friend in one day, but they were so cute I'm willing to play along. I loved their story and hope to read more from this author.

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

Lightly steamy and fully adorable, *Risking the Field* is a sweet, no-angst short story about two best friends who fall in love on high school graduation day.

I do think perhaps the move from "straight" BFFs to lovers to boyfriends was a bit too easy, and I didn't see the point of the drama with Pen's estranged father.

But sometimes you need a story like this: full of friendship and young love.
