



Art Criticism

Blue GhostGhost

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Art Criticism Details

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From Reader Review Art Criticism for online ebook

Cindi says

4.5 stars

I've been reading a lot of fanfiction lately and it seems like all of the stories I've read have centered around teenagers. This one (thankfully) did not.

James works at an art gallery. Turkish is a difficult photographer that James has to deal with a lot. James feels inadequate in his life and in regards to himself (no self-esteem) and his way of dealing with that is by coming across as rude to just about everyone. Turkish is laid back but a true pain when it comes to his photography. He is used to everyone jumping when he says jump and doesn't understand why James is the way he is.

This is an enemies-to-lovers story (which I love) though the enemy part is only one-sided... James. Turkish is interested in James but he has a hard time showing that because he is so passionate about his photos.

A unique relationship is born between the two. There are interesting secondary characters that added to the story. I enjoyed watching James come into his own with not just Turkish, but his life in general.

I have read (in another review) that there will be more to James and Turkish's story. I am very happy with the HEA on this one so I will probably not read anything beyond this one about James and Turkish.

This was a great story. I am so glad I took the time to read it.

Susan says

3.5 stars

I picked up this audiobook solely because Michael Spellman is one of my favorite narrators. And just as a narrator can absolutely ruin a story, a GREAT narrator can MAKE a book. This is what happened here for me listening to Art Criticism.

I story was a fun tale about a young guy who works at an art museum and the arrogant, impossible artist he has to deal with. The enemies to lovers trope works and Michael Spellman brings LIFE to these characters.

If I had read this as an ebook, I think I might have felt a little unconvinced about James and Turkish's attraction. Turkish was SUCH a jerk to James early on and I don't know that I could have believed the turning of the tide. However, the nuances and emotion the narrator used in his reading made their interactions more believable for me.

Fun book...but I really really recommend the audiobook.

What's to Like:

Basic enemies to lovers story with an artsy bend. I really liked the main character James. Super charming, a

tiny bit insecure, adorable. Though a bit high maintenance, it made me really want for him to find someone who would put up with his idiosyncrasies!

What's to Love:

The narrator, Michael Spellman. He's one of my top 3 narrators currently! I've consumed everything he's narrated.

Beware of:

Look, this story will not change your life and I'm not entirely sure it will be that memorable. But...

This Book is For:

...if you're looking for a sweet story that keep you entertained, this could be a good choice. But remember...AUDIOBOOK!

Bree Cheese says

Very sweet and straightforward free-online romance between a young gallery assistant and a high maintenance artist. Really great connection between the the two characters.

Mandapanda says

3.75 stars. Free online romance about James, an uptight and very insecure art gallery assistant, and the cruisy, artistic, and very annoying Turkish.

The book starts off with some great scenes between James and Turkish, where Turkish (a photographic artist who is a client of the gallery) is being unreasonably demanding and James is having to suffer in silence and put up with his outlandish and absurd demands. But finally one day James has had enough and tells Turkish exactly what he thinks of his demands... and his art.

I would never have thought that these two would end up together. At the beginning of the story I thought Turkish would be a bad guy. But the way the author turns it around is great. My only reservation was that James' character became just a little too insecure and whiny for my taste towards the end of the novel. The secondary characters are fun, especially James' friends Kitty and Peter.

I love the setting in the world of modern art and galleries. All the name dropping of famous modern artists and renowned galleries turned me on! (I love modern art!) I also love the Persian cultural influences that peek through in Turkish's character. The author writes knowledgeably on these issues and it was a pleasure to read.

Oh and one more thing... the sex scenes are really good in this one!

Laxmama says

AUDIBLE 2.5 stars I think the narrator did a great job, for me the story just dragged and I was bored. I actually found the MC James personality is what I disliked most about this. He was so crotchety & whiny it got really old fast.

Sandra says

4.5 stars I am so pleasantly surprised by this, I'm a bit speechless. I think I've gotten somewhat jaded from reading sooo many M/M romance, and I almost expect so-so mediocre most of the time. But immediately, there was something about this.

James, the narrator, is snarky and cranky and short-tempered and hilarious. Turkish is ridiculous and pompous and kind of a jerk. But once we get to see the other side of Tukish aka Yusef, he is so freaken amazing and sweet that it actually hurts my heart a little bit. James is effen neurotic, let's not mince words. But Turkish doesn't just 'deal with it' he actually finds it sweet and does his best to put James at ease.

James's neurosis could have gotten annoying, and they came borderline a few times. But Turkish (or one of the amazing secondary characters like James's friend Kitty) are always able to talk him down, so that things progress at a slow but reasonable pace with intermittent little set-backs. There is only one big blow-out, and I cannot explain how happy I am that the author didn't drag this out or do a repeat.

It could have ended in several places, but I enjoyed the full conclusion of our story and the sweet wrap up. I have a pet-peve about Epilogues that serve no purpose, so I thought it was great that the Epilogue was from Turkish's POV to give us a little sneak peek into the other side of things.

Hilarious and absolutely charming! And although, or perhaps *because*, they took their time working up to it and in part due to the emotional connection by this point in the story, that sex scene was. freaken. smokin. hot. and made my insides melt.

"I kind of want to go throw up somewhere and I also kind of want to dance down the street. Jesus, if this is anything like what love feels like, I want no part of it. But then that dumb grin that spreads across Turkish's face manages to warm up my insides anyway, and somehow it all seems worth it."

Received from the publisher in exchange for an honest review, reviewed for Hearts On Fire

MsMiz (Tina) says

3.7 - At the end of this all, I absolutely loved it. The title is horrible, yet I understand it. James, you just want to hate him, but you know his snarky hate is just a protection mechanism and he really is a sweet socially inept geek that is just to smart. Turkish/Yusef is a shinning star, smarter than you think he is and just a delight. Would like him to be my friend. This story is uncomplicated and tells a plain old love story of James and Turkish. There are bumps and thank GOD Turkish is patient.....so that we can all smile at the end of this story.

I so wanted to read about the family visit! Damn I wish we got to see that!

Td says

Stories like this make me wonder why I don't explore online fic more often. A delightful story with a slow believable build-up and so much more. I felt like I truly got to know James and Turkish as they got to know each other and I couldn't help the big, goofy grins all throughout their story. It was fun, sarcastic, adorable and sweet...without the sap. An online gem.

Miriam Mathew says

It wasn't that memorable but I liked it. I just felt that there was more that could be done to highlight the good and bad points of Turkish's and James' relationship.

The main characters were great- Blue GhostGhost gave them a lot of depth. I could almost believe if I walked past an art gallery one day, I can see James and Turkish walking hand in hand. I liked them together even though they were complete opposites. James is this grumpy, commitment phobic guy who's extremely hard to impress while Turkish is this wild, uninhibited person who tells you out-straight what he wants. They work together as a couple extremely well.

Crouck says

Note: This is not--and never was--fan fiction :D

Original slash story by BlueGhostGhost, so happy for her about getting it published :)

Vio says

4.5 stars

A wonderful surprise and a great free read. I'm so happy it was recommended to me because it was better than I expected, all due to the prickly voice of James and his very appealing sarcastic wit. I adored him and his weirdo ways, he might be a mess but what a cute mess and worth all the trouble. Turkish and James were an absolute hit for me and I loved their relationship woes, very entertaining. I was amused numerous times throughout, its a gem of find and even better than a lot of published works in my opinion.

Ami says

THIS IS REVIEW FOR THE FREE (AND NO LONGER AVAILABLE) VERSION

If this opinion is RAMBLING or GUSHY, I apologize beforehand.

This free story has been on my radar for awhile, since it IS listed on Favorite Unpublished M/M Stories. However, I haven't really given a lot of attention to online fiction before this time. It's only because I get the M/M slump over the published stories that I start to look for the free stuffs.

Written in 1st person POV (present tense), James is one of those neurotic characters. His intellectual mind makes him judgmental sometimes, particularly cranky (especially when it comes to Turkish), and often compulsively have panicky thoughts. James is unsure about what he wants to do with life, with a degree on art history but lands up having to deal with commercialism. I have a soft heart with messed up characters like that. No, not just a soft heart, I LOVE them. Because life is not perfect -- and those crazy thoughts that James have makes him endearingly human. I love his cranky voice ...

"I'm just saying that if I imagine a zombie apocalypse sort of thing where Turkish and I are the last two uninfected survivors in San Francisco, well, I immediately start wondering if there are any cute undead guys I can date"

"It's like some kind of horrible muscle car had sex with one of those little British roadsters from a Bond film and this is their monstrous cock of an offspring"

That's why Turkish is so perfect for James. He sort of the anti-James; he's optimistic, he is relentless when he tries to get what he wants (a.k.a. James), he doesn't mind to trade his more 'idealist' photos with one that he can sell (though of course, he claims it's not about money and drives James crazy because of it). He has this lazy flair on him, and particularly appreciate what he has. He's a Muslim (and hey, the author writes "Qur'an", instead of Koran, and I love her for it!), he can cook delicious Iranian dishes(!) ... and the best thing about Turkish? He can make James learn to just "let go".

"I feel myself letting go bit by bit as he pulls me closer and his hands map out a better home for my heart"

The setting (San Francisco) feels vivid ... as well as the short New York City trip. Blame all those romantic comedy movies set in NYC, I have a soft heart for that city being used as a background as well. On top of that, I delightedly enjoy reading the conversation about photography and modern art. So exhilarating!!

I also love the secondary characters, most notably James's best friends, Peter and Kitty. Their friendship with James are so real, it's like watching those friendship scenes you see on TV series like "Friends" or "Sex and the City". I love their reaction when they find out who the guy James has been in relationship with. It's such a delight.

The relationship is beautifully crafted, moving on bit by bit, from the time Turkish starts to break James's wall, to that lovely epilogue taken from Turkish's point of view.

And last, let me tell you which part of this book that makes me giving this my 5-stars rating: It's those

two chapters entitled "Take a Sad Song" and "Make It Better". It's that part where James says ...

...

"I am a lonely person

I don't know why I never realized it before, but I can't remember a time I didn't feel lonely -- even as a kid, even at parties in college or at an art opening full of people. Hell, who am I kidding? Especially at an art opening full of people

...

Because it just strikes me right in the solar plexus. I can relate to that feeling. I can relate to it *so bad*, that I'm all choked up when I read that chapter, and the next chapter when James is trying to apologize to Turkish for his show of tantrum. Because it's a big step for him to do that. Like what his mother told him, James needs to protect himself from the world -- and it is very terrifying for James to let someone like Turkish in, someone who is more than just best friends, someone that James can actually try to give control of his heart to. I have lump on my throat and I feel like a huge hand reaches out from that book to squeeze my heart in.

THAT is why this story gets my 5-stars. Because when a book relates to you that way, it's a treasure worth keeping ...

PS: *Unfortunately* ... and please treats this as SPOILER WARNING, it seems that James and Turkish will break up. The author hints on her blog in May (2012) about upcoming sequel, and the blurb says "his photographer *ex-boyfriend*". HOWEVER, I hope that this means the sequel will be about second chances -- which is another favorite theme of mine *cross fingers*

Deeze says

Mixed feelings on this one, more a 2.5

While I enjoyed parts of this story, I also found myself bored in places. James started off as a fun quirky guy, but then had bouts of whining that got a bit repetitive. Turkish was sweet but I found his use of the word man at the end of sentences didn't fit with my image of him and brought to mind a laid back surfer rather than a high maintenance artist. But that's a personal niggle.

Overall a sweet angst free story, with touches of humour from James, when he is not being an arrogant ass that is.

Charming says

Art Criticism by Celeste Spettro I read this as an online original story several years back, and remembered it as funny and endearing. So when I saw that it had been made into an audiobook, I decided to get it. Result? Still funny and endearing. I don't remember the online story well enough to know exactly what changed, but I think it has been polished up a bit, to its benefit.

I don't read a lot of contemporary romance these days, mostly because there are way too many books to read, and I am trying to reduce the potentials by cutting out categories, authors, series that aren't finished yet, books that sound too angsty or dark, etc. But once in a while a funny contemporary hits the spot.

James is an assistant helping to run an art gallery. He is good at his job and has an excellent eye for art, but he isn't so good at people. He is introverted and easily unnerved, and it becomes apparent that the people who are close to him are willing to do the work to maintain the relationship. James would generally rather hide alone in his room than deal with anyone.

Turkish is a photographer who has made a splash with his work, and sells photographs at the gallery. He is confident and friendly, willing to put himself out there, with a lot of friends.

At the beginning of the story, James can't figure out why Turkish is being so mean to him. Turkish is smitten, and trying to get James' attention by, essentially, pulling his pigtails. Turkish is willing to break down James' barriers and chase him until James is a little too rejecting, and hurts Turkish enough to give up. Then James has to decide what he wants and whether he is brave enough to do what it takes to fix things.

Most of the story is told from James' point of view, but there is an epilogue from Turkish's point of view that allows us to see James from his eyes, and it is hilarious.

Simsala says

3,75 stars

Already several good and thought-out reviews here so I don't have to...

I had a rocky start with Mr. Grumpy and Mr. Prima-Donna.

I thought the author tried too hard to make them opposites and went a bit overboard in their characterizations.

On top of that not a small amount of typos and kind of a hyphen-mania distracted me all through the first part of the story but it was nice (oh, the dreaded word...) enough to keep me reading.

Shortly after 50% it happened - I started giggling and later full out cackling for the rest of the book and I have no idea why - it wasn't *that* funny.

Perhaps because the hyphens were completely gone and it was some sort of relieved aftermath...

O.k., it was funny and admittedly very cute - cute story, cute characters, well written smut (not *too* cute but the dirty talk was...).

A better title for the story would have been:

The Art Of Embracing A Cactus

