



## Making It Work

*Cari Z.*

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Dear Author,

*I'm sending this on behalf of my boss of whom the picture depicted. Been working with him a couple of years as his law firm as his secretary replacing a string of female secretaries in just a few months.*

*He's not difficult to work for, my boss is. Honestly. I just think my successors expected too much from him... outside of work. I mean, look at his face! Admittedly, even I have a bit of crush on him. But even I had to face the fact that he's way, waaay out of my reach. Come to think of it, he's never had any romantic involvement with anybody during the years I've worked for him. The only dinner, lunch, or breakfast reservations I have had to make for him were either for work meetings or with his folks. Which reminds me, I have to make one soon for the latter as his folks are coming for a visit the day after tomorrow.*

*As courteous as he'd been with them, my boss doesn't really seem close or comfortable with his elders. He gave me a short version of his not-so-happy-happy childhood earlier in my days so that I stopped yapping at him to buy meaningful gifts for them. As kind and quiet my boss is, he can be quite stern when he rebukes me. I find this quite sexy, but please don't tell him I say so.*

*So, dinner reservations for three on next Friday evening... Wait, is that a "4" he wrote in my agenda or I need to have my eyes checked? It IS! Does this mean he'd bring a date to meet the 'rents? How did I miss this? I didn't see him behaving any differently around the office. People who date should've shown some symptoms, shouldn't they? And how come I never known that he's gotten close with anyone; male or female? I'm with him almost 12 hours a day! Well, at the office, on the phones, etc., etc.*

*I've got to find out more about this!!!*

### Photo Description:

A handsome silver-haired man stares into the camera, leaning his head against one hand. He's backlit by the sun, and his face and bare chest are in shadow. He appears both intent and faintly amused, and it's hard to look away from his smoldering eyes.

This story was written as a part of the M/M Romance Group's "**Love's Landscapes**" 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.

## Making It Work Details

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## From Reader Review Making It Work for online ebook

### SheReadsALot says

Another one from my awaited list! \*squees\* Silverfox FTW!

Wrong kind of silverfox?

My bad, here's the prompt pic to drool at:

This prompt was quite the great one and then it went into supernova by having a ginger MC paired with a silver fox. Like seriously, call it in, genitals will be taking a definite trip to *FuckYesVille*: population you.

I love a lot of tropes (hate quite a bit too) but I love a good office romance story especially a great boss/secretary romance. And this story delivers the goods.

Eric, executive assistant to lawyer silverfox Beau, has lusted for his boss for two years, knows the ins and out of the older man but never thought he'd be good enough because:

- a) he's just an executive assistant
- b) feels he's way out of Beau's league in all categories

But life throws a curve ball with an upcoming family dinner which has thrown Eric for a loop. Let the scrambling commence.

Great dialogue, realistic character portrayal, delicious slow burn and a satisfying ending without touching diabetic territory. Light, fun with a sense of realness.

**“No, you don’t get to touch yourself in my car.”**

**“Why not?” It wasn’t a whine, it wasn’t. My voice was too deep to whine. It was more of a... whoan. Or something. I couldn’t think.**

**“Three reasons. One, I don’t want to get into an accident trying to keep my eyes on you. Two, if I got into an accident, or if we were pulled over for indecent exposure, the mood killing would be the least of our problems. Three,” and here it was, the tone I loved, that I could barely wait for even though I knew I wasn’t going to like what he had to say, “for the rest of the night, that’s mine. Don’t touch it.”**

Oh and desk sex.

*Desk sex.*

I have a feeling I'll be rereading this story soon.

Thanks to the author (my first Cari Z. - what rock have I lived under? Won't be my last), the prompter and the team behind this story.

#### **4.5 STARS**

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#### **Tess says**

#### **4.25 stars**

Delightful (and free) short story! I adored Eric, the very competent personal assistant, and Beau, well, he was just about perfect (almost too perfect). I loved how they had a working relationship but were friends too. So, yes, very satisfactory for those looking for an office romance *and* a friends to lovers romance!

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#### **Ami says**

Was waiting for this because of two reasons :

- 1) The prompt was from an Indonesian (real life) friend (Hi Didi!! ), and
- 2) Cari Z's You Get Full Credit For Being Alive was one of my last year's favorites from the same event.

And well, what do you know?? It was adorable (and definitely fit the prompt!) office romance. And I liked the age gap. We need more characters above 40 years old (Silver Fox is so sexy!). I loved how Eric was basically clueless that Beau actually LIKED him... It was the right amount of set-up for the relationship and right amount of sexiness in the end (uhm, *desk sex \*yumm\**).

I still wish there were more scenes of them together, because they didn't really *get* together until near the end due Eric's inability to get hints (and his perception that being a personal assistant who fell for his boss was so cliché, and Eric loved his job thank you very much, even if he also really, really liked his boss!) \*LOL\*

**Conclusion:** the story makes me happy :). So THANK YOU Cari Z! You did it again!

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#### **KatieMc says**

Gray hair is the bomb people. I love it on both men and women. I am quite the advocate for gray hair, not to mention that I spend a fair bit of time in an office. So Making It Work was all sorts of win for me. Besides, what could be more gob-smackingly satisfying than finding out that your crush is crushing back at you? I only just wished that the desk sex started sooner. Oopsies, was that a spoiler?

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## **Vivian says**

How all the best intentions are F\*\*KING wrong.

Sometimes you have to be greedy and bad--or end up miserable. Eric's done everything right, been a perfectly good boy and a stellar executive assistant which if you've ever done the job is somewhere been psychic and grunt. He's also slavered in secret. The object of his desire? Beau. Senior partner in the law firm and his boss.

\*waggles finger\* No, no, no...

Sexy older man with a delightful accent that melts everyone, male and female. The dynamics are fun and sweet and the collision is spectacular. Best part? When Beau decides it's his turn to drive. Damn. Man shoulda grabbed that wheel ages ago.

Loved the office crew, the realistic portrayal of professionals and sweet and sexy vibe to this romance.

Favorite quote:

Beau always looked good, but when he was happy, his attractiveness went from “hell yeah” to “transcendental experience.”

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## **Kat says**

Gosh, but this had such a kindergarten-ish feel to it. I'd rather the MCs were just two check-out guys at the local supermarket, it would have provided this story with a slightly more realistic touch. Because their personalities and behavior at the office couldn't be further apart from a typical day at a law firm, or any company for that matter.

In general, I suppose this is simply not my kind of story. I do like a dose of fluff occasionally, which is why I'd hoped for a few smiles and fuzzy feelings! But this was just too predictable and simplistic for me to enjoy.

And those characters! I had to do a double take at the name 'Eric' to convince myself that he wasn't one of those obligatory, meddling female characters writers sometimes use for plot purposes. He was terribly unsexy to me: nosy, fretful, a self-declared momma's boy who engaged in dirty sex (not the kind I'd hoped for though!:p). And although I LOVE me a silver fox, it looks like the supposed lawyer here had never fully managed to stand on his own two feet. For a 40+ guy to have this type of relationship with his parents; it makes my imaginary dick go soft.

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## **Laura says**

Cari Z.'s Making It Work hit me in all the right places!

All I really need is two words to express my love for this story---desk and sex. \*huge grin\* But let me try to pull myself together and search through the ole' noggin for a few more words. ;)

Eric, our red headed cutie, has been crushing on Beau Montgomery for years now with one little issue—Beau is his boss.

**"Beau always looked good, but when he was happy, his attractiveness went from "hell yeah" to "transcendental experience."**

His broad shouldered, silver fox boss! A man Eric likes spending time with and taking care of. Plus Beau can turn him into a big ball of blushes and drool with one word in a certain powerful tone of voice. Will Eric risk it all for a chance for more though? For love?

This slow, sweet ready to boil chemistry made me smile, hope, and oolala day dream. Throw in ninja jokes, "shivery sensations", and side characters full of life and sass that add just enough will-they/won't-they suspense to the page---we get one sexy, sweet read!

Did I mention the...(view spoiler)

My favorite line: (view spoiler)

Highly recommended short story gem.

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~◊~**Doxni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~◊~ says**

3.5 stars

It's all about the office crush. And who wouldn't be tempted by the seriously sexy hunk in the image prompt?

This story was very well written, with plenty of humour and slow burn; hot, light, and sweet, just the way I like 'em.

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**Catherine says**

**\*\*\* 4.5 Silver Fox-worthy Stars \*\*\***

Rawr! This one hit all the right notes for me. I adored how obtuse Eric was, and how fucking sexy Beau was, and how they were both sweet and scorching hot together. I love the age gap and boss/employee tropes sooooo much it should be illegal (at the very least someone should slap me for including four extra "o's in "so"). And the desk sex?! It was like the cherry on top of the butterscotch sundae. YUM!

As always, my thanks to the author for participating in the Love's Landscapes event and for all of the behind-the-scenes work that editors, beta readers, and the MM Group Mods put into making this FREE event a massive success!

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### **Julio Genao says**

[too many pop culture references, which were distracting, and the law firm stuff was fudged a bit—but holy god sex after two days without a shower? two days of pissing and shitting without soap, plus a night's sleep crunched-up on a couch after having too many beers, and sitting on your ass for two 8-10 hour shifts, fragrantly stewing like alabama ham hocks? dafuqouttahurr. i gagged like i was on camera. (hide spoiler)]

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### **Otila says**

**First, let's stare at that prompt picture for awhile...**

**Done? Now go read the story. It's sweet and fun and there's sex on a desk.**

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### **\*J\* Too Many Books Too Little Time says**

I really liked this one. One of those "moment in time" type novellas.

Office romance - can't go wrong there.

Age gap - I dig it.

Good writing - always a plus.

Some steam - satisfying.

I could have read more about these 2.

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### **Ana\_P says**

**sexy silver fox**

+

**cute ginger**

=

**squeal-worthy short story.**

This was so cute, and I am a total sucker for age-gap stories. My only complaint is that I wished the MCs had gotten together sooner than towards the end. I would've loved for more pages with them as a couple. But, certainly, a great edition to this year's LL event.

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### **Rosa, really says**

#### **GOOOOD.**

Effortless fluffy fun that doesn't overwhelm you with sugar shock syndrome.

One of my favorite Harlequin tropes, the Boss and the Secretary, but without all the melodrama and that lovely aftertaste of self-hatred cuz why are you reading this shit?

Also? The main character is a ginger.

Also? The love interest is over forty.

Also? Desk sex.

Also? An age difference.

Also? Have you seen that picture for the prompt? Hello! Get thee to a vibrator.

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### **Heller says**

Office romance! One of my favourite tropes plus we get a delish age difference between a boss and his executive assistant. A light easy read with great secondary characters and slow burn romance. Win on all fronts!

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