



Making Contact

*Lynn West (Editor) , Cornelia Grey , Cari Z. , Sue Brown , Andrea Speed , Erin Sheppard , Andi Deacon ,
Lyn Gala , more... K.R. Foster , J.L. Merrow ...less*

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Everyone knows that love can turn your world upside down, but it can also be literally out of this world. In this selection of M/M science fiction short stories, there's romance among the shooting stars, love that matches the glory of the spheres, and passion that burns like the largest of suns, and making first contact takes on a whole new meaning.

Better Than Cola By JL Merrow

Newly arrived on Earth to work in the Melliti embassy, Summer Storms meets Nathan Chambers, who is tasked with teaching the alien visitor how to deal with human social interaction. The thrill of casual touch exposes an immediate attraction between them, but how far can intimacy go between two totally different life forms?

Revolving Realities By Cari Z.

Dr. Eliot Hollister is desperate to locate the Ulysses and her crew before tragedy strikes... again. The lone survivor of a hostile attack compounded by human error, Eliot is using an alien artifact to search through alternate realities, trying to change the outcome in a parallel dimension. Eliot's challenge once he finds the ship? Convince Captain Paul Alvarez he's for real before the Ulysses falls prey to the same trap.

The Sacrifice By Sue Brown

After twelve years, the leaders of the Free Worlds have finally found a man willing to sacrifice his life to the gods of Segelian to ensure an alliance with the mineral-rich planet. But when Stane raises the dagger to perform the rite, he looks into the human Steven's eyes and is horrified to discover he is destined to kill his life partner. If Stane doesn't complete the ritual, it will destroy any chance for a treaty... and it might also change the world of Segelian forever.

Alone By Andrea Speed

Scientist Logan Murakami doesn't have much to keep him company during his lonely vigil at Outpost Proserpina. But he knew that going in, and it's the perfect place to focus solely on his work: a neuro-optical interface that would be the perfect engine for artificial intelligence... an intelligence that Logan hopes is taking on a life of its own.

Losing Sight of the Shore By Emily Moreton

Secondary communications officer Jay is assigned to a boarding crew when the Hydra discovers a seemingly abandoned, powerless ship floating in space. While exploring the derelict ship, Jay finds a barely conscious man with purple skin and silver eyes. After surviving a raider attack, Felix is understandably afraid to let Jay go—even when cultural differences threaten to stop any contact between them.

Gifted in Tongues By JL Merrow

After inadvertently outraging local sensibilities, space pilot Torvald “Spitz” Spitzbergen faces a five-year stretch in a Lacertilian jail. His only consolation is trading insults with his cellmate, Tao, a six-foot libidinous Felid. But Tao seems to have a distinctly fuzzy understanding of the difference between fighting and foreplay...

Analytic Geometry By Andi Deacon

Kevin Ikoro has an incredible opportunity: his boss at Helix Multicorp wants an analyst’s view of how the corporation’s Exploration division works, and Kevin is now a member of explorer team Alpha 3IG. His teammates, a set of brilliant twins named Cameron and Theo Banark, are fascinating, and Kevin finds himself harboring a serious case of lust for Cameron. But exploration is unpredictable, and his teammates may not be what they seem. The shortest distance between two bodies isn’t always a straight line.

The Monsters Below By Lyn Gala

Brai’s never dreamed of fighting the monstrous sub-humans who infest Kestia, but when his lover joins the service, Brai does what he always does... he follows. Then Rick is lost on his first mission, and Brai is left alone in a murderous rage. Now on his own first mission gone terribly wrong, Brai has his chance to get back at the monsters for killing Rick—only the government hasn’t been honest about the nature of the enemy, and Brai might find that the caves hide a secret that could change his life.

Feral By K.R. Foster

Desperate to end a war, the king of the Lunar Pryde agrees to submit one of his offspring to mate with a member of the Sol Pryde royal line. Cynfael, prince of the Lunar Pryde, fled the planet six months ago searching for freedom, and nothing could convince him to return... except his father’s threat to marry off Cynfael’s twelve-year-old sister Adara. After fighting for freedom his entire life, Cynfael must return to Starion to face his unknown mate and an equally unknown future.

Ganymede’s Honor By Cornelia Grey

Colonel Ardeth Connor has been rescued from death, but he’s not sure his new life is any better: he’s effectively trapped aboard a rebel ship that defies the Federation to collect ice meteors, stealing life-sustaining water for the poorest of planets and asteroids. As an anonymous part of Captain Gabriel’s crew, Ardeth is biding his time until he can escape... and learning there’s more to space than just the Federation.

Making Contact Details

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From Reader Review Making Contact for online ebook

Sue Brown says

It was the first book I contributed to, but I had to rate it. I loved the other stories, particular Cornelia Grey.

kasjo_peja says

One of the very, very few anthologies I've read from the beginning till the end. That in itself is a testament of its quality. Imaginative, funny, engaging, moving... there wasn't a story there I didn't like. Their rating ranged from 4 (*Better Than Cola* by JL Merrow) to 5.5 (*Revolving Realities* by Cari Z. and *The Monsters Below* by Lyn Gala).

I can't think of another m\m anthology, apart from *Sindustry I & II*, that I enjoyed so much.

Justme says

What a great collection! Some were too short to be a story, more of a snippet, sadly, but most were complete & good reads.

Better Than Cola by JL Merrow 4.4* wanted more (snippet).

Revolving Realities by Cari Z 4.8* complete story, good read.

The Sacrifice by S Brown 4.8* complete w/twist; I liked this one.

Alone by A Speed 4* snippet unsatisfying.

Losing Sight of the Shore by E Moreton 4.4* lotsa sex.

Gifted in Tongues by JL Merrow 4* no substance; really not my thing.

Analytic Geometry by A Deacon 4.8* substance & sex.

The Monsters Below by L Gala 4.4* not romance for me, though interesting.

Feral by KR Foster 5* best w/obvious twist.

Ganymede's Honor by C Grey 5* bester! this was my favorite of the bunch. had everything (good char development, great world building, unique & intriguing idea, romance & sex).

I could have separated the ratings out a bit more, but...here you go. Even the unsatisfying reads were good reads.

Alison says

I absolutely loved it and could not put it down.

Every story was different and well written, some almost going back the the style of the original sci-fi writers where what you thought would or should happen didn't, or caused something unexpected.

Sue Brown's "The Sacrifice" was wonderful (she was the reason I actually picked it up after debating it for

months), and I will definately be re-reading the anthology a time or three in the future.

It's a must read for any sci-fi lovers and I would recommend it to anyone who likes something a bit different, even if they have never read sci-fi.

Liz (Bugetta) says

This only reviews the first three stories since that's as far as I got before it disappeared from Scibd (I think it's out of print now).

Better Than Cola by JL Merrow was odd, but I really liked **Revolving Realities** by Cari Z. and **The Sacrifice** by Sue Brown. Wish I'd gotten to read the rest, especially Lyn Gala's story. I hope she self-publishes it. :)

Neyjour says

Better Than Cola by J.L. Merrow: ★★★

[science fiction]

Revolving Realities by Cari Z.: ★★★★

[science fiction / alternate reality]

The Sacrifice by Sue Brown: ★★★★★

[science fantasy]

Alone by Andrea Speed: ★★★

[science fiction]

Losing Sight of the Shore by Emily Moreton: ★★★★★

[science fiction]

Gifted in Tongues by J.L. Merrow: ★★★

[science fiction]

Analytic Geometry by Andi Deacon: ★★★★

[science fiction]

The Monsters Below by Lyn Gala: ★★★

[science fiction / horror / action]

Feral by K.R. Foster: ★★★

[science fantasy]

Ganymede's Honor by Cornelia Grey: ★★★★

[science fiction]

Driima says

[it felt like just: meeting, greeting, alien x human getting busy (hide spoiler)]

T.A. Webb says

Very lovely stories. Best of which is The Monsters Below by Lyn Gala. There are ten stories included in this anthology and all show the writers as skilled and imaginative. Love hate lust and passion show up in surprising ways. I read this book late at night with no interruptions and only a reading lamp on in my house. Some stories left me satisfied and some stayed with me. The Monsters Below was worth the price of admission by itself. While the premise of each of these stories is alien and human love/lust I found each to be startlingly tender in its own way. I dare you to read Ms. Gala without your heart bleeding. I found these to be jewels some flawed but some breathtakingly beautiful and moving.

Comment

?♥? Michaeelle & ♥? says

3.9 Stars

Jennifer says

SlashReader: This is one of those anthologies that I both loved and hated. I liked the range and variety of ideas that existed between its pages. However, it was one of those that struck me as really simply being all about the sex. The forgone conclusion in each story was the fact that characters were going to jump each other. While I do not mind reading such thing, I find anthologies in which all the stories are only there for the sex, tiring some. But, there are plenty of people out there who would undoubtedly disagree with me.

Lol, on the subject of this anthology instead, it was an interesting combination of far out there alien stories and some that are closer to home. Either way, if you like reading MM romance and you like reading Sci-Fi, you'll most likely find more than one thing you enjoy between the pages of this book. :)

(view spoiler)

BTina says

Better Than Cola by JL Merrow - 3.5 stars
Revolving Realities by Cari Z. - 4 stars
The Sacrifice by Sue Brown - 3.5 stars
Alone by Andrea Speed - 3.5 stars
Losing Sight of the Shore by Emily Moreton - 2.3 stars
Gifted in Tongues by JL Merrow - 3.3 stars
Analytic Geometry by Andi Deacon - 3,8 stars
The Monsters Below by Lyn Gala - 3 stars
Feral by K.R. Foster - 2 stars
Ganymede's Honor by Cornelia Grey - 3,8 stars

Paris says

UPDATE: I finally did it. I finished it. It's been a struggle, but yesterday I read the last story, which is actually the best story of them all (Ganymede's Honor by Cornelia Grey). The other two that I can say I kinda liked are Alone by Andrea Speed and The Monsters Below by Lyn Gala.

Short stories are harder to write. You need to squeeze a full story onto few pages. Let's see how this anthology turned out. I will review as I read. Here we go:

1) BETTER THAN COLA by JL Merrow

It's so short that I can hardly call it a story. More like a scene. An alien who is wearing a "human" suite (sexy, right? or creepy :-P) is offered sex by a human. I kinda liked the alien. Human? Not so much - he's got a case of alien groupiesm.

I don't think I saw any plot there. Just the idea. Which is not the same thing.

Ok, I think that's enough. I don't want my review to be longer than the story :-)

2) REVOLVING REALITIES by Cari Z.

The only survivor of a battered space capsule is searching alternate realities to save people he loves, his crew members that he lost in his own world. He is starving, dehydrated and on the verge of losing his mind, but there is one thing that keeps him going - a promise to a loved one.

Not sure if I liked the story or not. It left me neutral.

I have questions though:

Is it important to have sex scenes in romances today? Is it necessary? How many sex scenes should there be? Would you consider yourself cheated if there is none or not enough?

I often have a feeling that some of modern romantic authors are so eager to put the love scenes in their stories that they don't care what lead to them. It is not an easy task to create a beautiful love scene - it takes more than just a basic knowledge of human anatomy (you can stick A to B all you want, doesn't make it a Nobel Prize winner). So instead of writing the story chronologically (and see where it leads you), authors wrap their stories around sex. Sex isn't a happy ending. It shouldn't be the reason for writing a romance. Sex

scene is not a plot. It cannot be a final destination of the story. And whatever else the author wants to tell his readers (through his characters) feels more like an afterthought.

3) THE SACRIFICE by Sue Brown

No sacrifice for Sue Brown ;-) The story runs very smooth. No real conflict there. It's like a super short version of something that could have been a book.

Giving a review for something so short is like walking a minefield full of spoilers. One wrong move and you give away the whole story :-)

One of the heroes is literally a sacrifice. He is young and strong and beautiful. And he is a Sacrifice to Gods on his own will. And it's up to you to find out how it's going to work out for him by the end of the day :-))

4) ALONE by Andrea Speed

Now this one I like. I think of it as a virtual Frankenstein story. There is a terrible reality of creation. And the tenderness between the creature [sim] and its creator [Logan]. The battle between mind and heart. The roots of this story are coming from our present days.

5) LOSING SIGHT OF THE SHORE by Emily Moreton

I read it yesterday and I already have difficulties remembering it. There is some kind of fairy-Disney-tale going on on the space ship.

6) GIFTED IN TONGUES by JL Merrow

Sometimes jail time could be especially nice and productive.

7) ANALYTIC GEOMETRY by Andi Deacon

It's some people's dream.

8) THE MONSTERS BELOW by Lyn Gala

...in love and in hate...till death do us part...or not :-)

9) FERAL by K.R. Foster

About a young rebellious royal lion-shifter. He is struggling to accept his duties because they are against his heart and freedom. But he will come to his senses pretty quick after a hard call from his dick.

10) GANYMEDE'S HONOR by Cornelia Grey

This one is a nicely written story. It has a beginning, crisis point and a logic ending. Something most stories above lack big time. The story is simple and it could be the reason I like it. It's a space swashbuckle.

Julesmarie says

My new favorite M/M anthology!

I was astounded at the worlds and the characters these authors were able to create in such short works.

I like to buy anthologies so I can have shorter stories to read before bed--so I won't stay up too late unable to put down whatever book I'm reading. That totally backfired with this anthology! Each story was so good, I didn't want to stop, and ended up finishing the whole thing way too fast.

One of my favorite things was the beautiful diversity among all of the stories. Sci-fi is such a fascinating genre in that it can encompass so many different elements, and I loved how many of those were explored here.

My favorites:

Revolving Realities by Cari Z.
Better than Cola by JL Merrow
The Sacrifice by Sue Brown
and
The Monsters Below by Lyn Gala

Andi says

I feel a little odd about reviewing this anthology, since I have a story in it. But leaving that one uncommented upon, I thought this anthology was really great. I have not read a lot in the sci-fi area of m/m romance, although I've always been a big sci-fi fan in general, so I was delighted to find that the stories in this anthology stack up extremely well qua science fiction, as well as qua m/m romance.

The stories cover a lot of territory--from the difficulties of adapting to alien cultures, to politics in space, to alternate realities, to alien horror, to swash-buckling space pirate adventures. I was very impressed with the creativity throughout the book in the depiction of alien worlds and creatures--and the varying ways sex and love might go as a result. Some of the stories were humorous. Some were sad. Many of them were touching. Some were just plain fun. All of them were unique.

If I have one criticism, it is that some of the stories ended a bit abruptly--as if once the main characters actually "made contact," the stopping point had been reached. This is one of the limiting elements of short stories, and one of the things that makes them difficult to write, especially when you're dealing with romance. Perhaps it was just that once I got to know the characters, I wanted more of their story. With any luck, some of these authors will take these stories as jumping off points for longer works!

I would be hard put to it to choose a favorite as I genuinely enjoyed every one of them. Sci-fi lovers who don't normally read m/m romance might find their eyes opened to the possibilities, while the romance lovers will enjoy the wonderful backdrops against which the romances takes place.

Teresa says

As with all anthologies, there were excellent stories and ones that didn't resonate with me. Over all it was a great collection of aliens, different worlds, and love.
