



Don't Wake Me Up

Hunter Frost

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Dear Author,

I first saw him when I was fifteen. My father invited him over for Sunday dinner and I couldn't even talk to him. He was too cute and I, too confused because I didn't realize I was gay. Now, I'm a college graduate and have my first job. Heaven help me on my first day at work to catch sight of one of the vice presidents of the company. It was him, the man I've been dreaming about for nine years.

I don't think he knows I exist. I'm not even in his department. But every night I go to sleep with dreams of him and every morning, wake up harder than I ever had before to thoughts of being with him. I'm afraid he'll rebuff me if I ask him out or even that I would be fired. I need this job, but after months of this, I'm beginning to think I need him more.

Photo Description:

A remarkably attractive man with blue eyes and dark hair is dressed in a stylish blue three-piece pinstriped suit. He stares ahead as if thinking of something, or someone, special. His hands are in his pockets, which suggests a casual attitude, but his face has an expression of fierce determination.

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.

Don't Wake Me Up Details

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From Reader Review Don't Wake Me Up for online ebook

Debbie McGowan says

Review to follow when I get a minute.

Tj says

Don't Wake Me Up is cute and sweet but also deals with some painful things such as anxiety, forgiveness, and the willingness to stand up for what you want and not settle for second place. Thank you Hunter. The ending was adorable.

Meep says

Thanks to the author for participating and offering this freebie

Awkward Social Anxiety suffering main character. The guy is at work, gets called to say hello to his crush/father's friend and ..he faints!

Seriously, I just can't! Simpering Harlequin maidens have never been this bad. Not a trope for me.

DNF - didn't get past the fainting, wouldn't be fair to rate.

Ok, so I did go back and skim further, it's not for me.

Trisha Harrington says

3.5 stars!

Kristan says

3.5 stars

Aww, shucks. This was just adorable.

Shane took one look at his father's employee, Mason, when he was fifteen, and fell madly in love. Now, eight years later and not only is Shane working at the same company as Mason, but he's still waking up to

wet dreams over the man each morning. When Mason finally gets a look at the adult Shane has grown up to be, he more than likes what he sees, and it isn't long before he's flirting with his employee.

But there's more to this story than that. There's the healing of a father son relationship that may just make your eyes a little damp, one man's realization of what he really wants out of life, and one pretty great epilogue.

Here's my one complaint: I think the relationship needed to be developed further, which I realize is an unrealistic expectation with the time constraints in the writing event, but still. I couldn't help but feel like both Shane and Mason's reactions when everything came to light, were too intense for something so freshly new. Shane's rings a little more true. And yes, I know, Shane's been whacking it off to thoughts of Mason for years, but as far as we know, Mason hasn't been doing the same until he finally saw Shane all grown up. If they had been dating for a little while, it would have made a little more sense, especially when it came to Mason. I suppose since Shane's father had been talking up Shane to Mason for years, there's a chance that maybe he fell in love with Shane too? I guess what I'd like is a little more understanding of the depth of feelings on Mason's end of things.

What I really took away from this story, over the romance, was the healing of a father son relationship, which I wanted for them from the moment I read their first interaction. Overall this was a super sweet, adorable, well written, quick read.

My thanks to the author for their effort and participation in the Love is an Open Road event.

V says

Some people dislike this story some others loved it.
I found it freaking lovely.

Sachi says

This was so cute I thought my heart would burst out of my chest.
It also made me cry and that normally means five stars from me.

Thank you for such a great story Hunter, one of my favorites of LOR.

Amy Spector says

[

Yeah, THAT kind of manga.

(hide spoiler)]

Jilrene ♥ says

Oh, dear. It's my turn to be odd reader out. ;)

This is more of a 2.something for me. I rounded up because, well, it's free. And that has to count for something. Plus the plot was good, I just couldn't connect.

Catherine says

I developed a sort of visceral dislike of one of the main characters, Shane, in the first few pages and couldn't get past it.

Also, if you have a character that has been waiting a DECADE to bone the man of their dreams, leaving that shit off page when it finally happens is NOT COOL, Bro. Not cool.

Though this story just wasn't my cuppa tea, I want to say thank you to the author for participating in the Love is an Open Road event, and to the editors, beta readers, and the MM Group Mods for all of the behind-the-scenes work they put into making this FREE event a massive success!

Leaundra says

Loved it . I would have loved for it to be longer.

Dawn Sister says

Sweet, cute read. I loved Shane and Mason. There was just the right amount of sweet mixed with a little bit of angst and a lot of hot in a suit.

Sandra says

Super adorable, flufftastic little story about a teenage boy who falls in love with a young man, dreams of him for years, then meets him again at his new job, and all the things happen. Good exploration of characters, some family drama and healing, some realizations, and a lovely epilogue made this a pleasure to read.

Free from the Love Is An Open Road event from the M/M Romance group.

My thanks to the author!

Ami says

Thank you so much to the author who have participated in this event

Shane felt like a virgin maiden (he actually fainted when Mason called him into his office!! Okay, due to low-blood sugar, but it didn't mention previously, so my initial reaction was "Really?!?"), Mason felt like he was coming out of my old Harlequin romance book (handsome, charming, successful, in his early thirties).

I actually like Shane's *father* better than these characters because he felt more rounded, more complex ... a guy who tried his best to make up for lost times when Shane was still younger (By the way, I thought Shane was being a little brattish for the past twelve years to his Dad! I know he's hurt, but still, his Dad is trying!!).

Oh, and the sudden POV switch for the epilogue felt rather weird (the whole story was in first person but the epilogue is written in third person).

So, a "Meh" read for me *shrugs*

Note:

Per my own policy, any story from this year's event that I can't give 3* rating to, will be left unrated

Tess says

4.5 stars This story made me so happy - I just loved the feel of it. It was very easy for me to connect and sympathize with Shane, because I was Shane at that age. He's dreadfully shy, he suffers from social anxiety and he's had a major crush on Mason for many years. Who wouldn't want him to get his HEA with the older, very sexy and confident Mason? Watching him gain confidence through the story and move towards the relationship and HEA was really sweet.

I would have liked to see a bit more of a gradual build up of the relationship between Shane and Mason (it had a bit of the fairy tale about it) but it didn't take away my enjoyment and I loved this regardless.

A couple of notes:

-- this story also had a touching side story about Shane and his Dad, and

-- despite the off page tag, there WAS one sexy scene :)
