



Brandon's Laughter

Ellen Holiday

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Dear Author,

We have known each other nearly all our lives. We grew up in the same mid-sized conservative town in the south, but it took music and distance to bring us from acquaintances to this moment. How did we get here from there?

Photo Description:

Black-and-white photo of two men laughing together; one is leaning on the other's shoulder.

This story was written as a part of the M/M Romance Group's "**Love Has No Boundaries**" 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.

Brandon's Laughter Details

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From Reader Review Brandon's Laughter for online ebook

Meep says

A lovely well paced story that moves from toddlers giggling in their prams, to adolescent kisses, then through 'Nam and Nashville to finding each other again. It's both heart-wrenching and heart-warming, either way it has a lot of heart.

The writing is good, characters are engaging and the book is just the right length for the story. All this and it's offered free!

Ami says

Richie and Brandon grew up together in a small town. Richie was the musician and Brandon was the athlete. The two realized that they were attracted to one another but since Brandon was leaving for the army, Richie put a stop in any prospect of having a relationship. So Brandon left and Richie started his career in music, playing on small venues until he got invited to Nashville to play in charity event for the GIs...

While there were already some encouraging reviews, I think it was Vio giving this 4.2 stars that motivated me (so thank you, Vio :p). This was such a lovely story. I loved reading Richie's journey of becoming a musician. I must admitted the last scene where Richie sang the song he meant for Brandon made me all teary eyed. Yes, I'm a sap, I am not ashamed saying it.

The minor "liberties" taken regarding the historical timeline made the story felt "lighter" (no pressure of homophobia, even in the world of country music and army), even if Richie at first worried about being queer. Which was fine with me; it was a nice change sometimes, not reading something angst due to external situation.

The reason that I didn't rate more was because the separation in the middle between made it lack of connection between Richie and Brandon. Brandon wasn't Richie's first (in love-making). They didn't exchange letters too. I guess, a sap that I am, I wanted to read more about these two as a couple. But it's definitely one of my favorites in this event.

Sunny says

That was it?! I wasn't done with the story! I need to read more about what happens with this sweet couple. Great characterization, although I'm thinking discrimination would probably play a bigger role in their story during this time period, especially in the south. Nice, emotional read :)

Pjm12 says

This is tender and sweet. Some nice building of two very different characters. Some nice inclusion of

secondary characters. It may be got a little too sweet right at the end, but that's country music for ya: All bared open with nothing to hide.

Tatiana says

Charming, romantic, and a little heartbreaking. An excellent read for romance lovers.

Gigi says

Absolutely adorable! Made me cry a gallon of years. Recommended!

Emma Sea says

Aw, a really romantic one! That's what I've been missing this time around: there's lots of hot sex and funny sex and sex with bondage and adorable sex, but not as many deeply romantic stories. Holiday gave me happy feels! Thank you!

vLadimiR says

Such a sweet piece of literary heaven. The story had the right length. Slow burn romance. Enough angst to highlight the tender moments. No chicks-with-dicks or sugary lines. And best of all it's **FREE**

I'll definitely keep a look out for other works from this author.

Mandy*reads obsessively* says

I'm finally getting around to this and I'm sure Tailtiu will be happy about that! :)
After much poking (seriously, she poked me) I read this LHNB short.

4.25

I never thought I would say this, but thank you Tailtiu for the pokes. :)

This is a simple, sweet, romantic story, even if I had so wished for more. More of them together, more of what Brandon was feeling and thinking and more after it ended.

Yes, I loved it, but I think this should be made into a longer story, I'm greedy.

It's free and it's really really good, I recommend everyone read it.

"I didn't like to think of how Brandon might be changed by the war. For me, the greatest sorrow would be if it stole his laughter. I prayed that wherever he was, whatever he was doing, he still found reasons to laugh. Amazing how that sound had been an annoyance when it was inescapable. Now, I longed to hear it

again.”

Sandra says

Offered for FREE from the M/M Romance Group's Love Has No Boundaries Anthology: Volume 6. Thank you too all the amazing authors who participated!

****Sigh**** That about sums it up. Lovely story. The only difficulty is that it takes place during the Vietnam War so while I want them to be open I'm always hesitant with my MC's being out in historicals because I worry about the practicality of living life like that in that time... but, ****sigh**** Just a beautiful and sweet story about young love.

Vio says

4.20 stars

Richie and his love song to Brandon was the perfect romantic, dedication. I had the sniffles and a huge smile on my face, happy, deep and wonderful words. I thought the separation was an interesting learning curve and worked in their favour it gave the boys room to grow. Experiencing the good and bad of living without one another and eventually they arrived at the right place, together. I loved this sweet romance, lovely!

Bev says

Another winner from the LHNB event. 4.25 stars and

Richie and Brandon have been friends for years, growing up together in a small southern town where it isn't wise to be gay. Richie has always been very interested in music, and Brandon does his own thing. They realise that although they are attracted to each other, living where they live it is not a good idea, so Brandon leaves to join the army and Richie tries to fulfill his childhood ambition of playing in Nashville. Does he succeed, do the guys ever meet again....you'll have to read this very sweet story to find out.

??????? says

4.5

K says

LHNB Story released 1.7.13

Just over 4 stars

Beautiful story of Richie and Brandon from their earliest days through adolescence and into adulthood set in an era where being queer wasn't talked about. After school they become separated and loose touch but Richie, who narrates the story, never stops thinking of Brandon as his musical career grows. The lyrics of Richie's song are truly heartbreaking.

Tailtiu says

4,5*
