



Bridges

M.J. O'Shea

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Official Description: With names like Dallas and Brooklyn they could've either been best friends...or worst enemies. The war started in third grade, with a surprise punch to the face, and lasted until the summer after high school when Brooklyn and Dallas are stuck working at the same store. At night. Together. It should've been a recipe for disaster. But instead of outright combat, they slowly start to notice that not only do they not hate each other, but perhaps they have more in common than either of them knew. Soon, amidst unexpected laughter and camaraderie, Dallas realizes that maybe the guy who used to be his number one enemy could actually be his perfect match.

Original Prompt:

Dear Author,

These beautiful boys have a story to tell. A story of firsts. The first stirrings of attraction, the first feelings of love, the first touch of another, the first forever...

Please tell us their story so that their love may live on...

Photo Description: A black/white photo of two naked teenage boys in a white bedroom. One sits on the bed facing right, leaning back into the other kneeling behind him. His lover's right hand is across his arm and chest. The left hand gently strokes his hardened penis as they both watch.

This story was written as a part of the M/M Romance Group's "**Hot Summer Days**" 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.

Download the story, read it here or find it in Don't Read in the Closet, Vol 1 or Don't Read in the Closet: GayRomLit Retreat 2011 Special Edition.

Genre: contemporary

Tags: gay m/m, virgins, first love, enemies-to-lovers, high school, summer romance

Word Count: 14,012

Bridges Details

Date : Published July 4th 2011 by M/M Romance Group @ Goodreads

ISBN :

Author : M.J. O'Shea

Format : ebook 37 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Contemporary, Short Stories

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From Reader Review Bridges for online ebook

Vallie says

I just love stories where we meet the characters as children! It's my absolute favorite theme to see the friends-to-lovers develop after years of friendship that started early on. And the author just nailed this one!!! So cute,so sweet,so romantic! I was right there with them, remembering what it's like to be a teenager again, to fall in love for the first time. Highly recommend!!!

Alona says

Sweet short enemies-to-lovers, YA story.
Thanks Trisha for a lovely recommendation!

Meags says

3.5 Stars

Bridges is a YA/NA short that tells the story of childhood nemeses Dallas and Brooklyn, who grow up to become unexpected friends, and then surprisingly find themselves falling in love during the summer before they head off to college.

As is generally the norm for my M.J. O'Shea reading experiences, I found this story to be all things sweet, sappy (in a good way) and romantic.

I really enjoyed the enemies-to-friends-to-lovers evolution of Dallas and Brooklyn's relationship, and although their story is quite short in length, it felt like enough for me, capturing all the perfect first love feels I want in a coming-of-age romance.

Nikyta *Miss Forgetful* says

I thought this one was super cute. I loved that Dallas and Brooklyn kept getting stuck together even though they hated one another and then I loved that they became friends to lovers in the end. They were just too adorable. The sex scene was a bit too long for my liking and the story was a bit short but I still liked it. Hope there's more of these two to come someday.

Marte - Thunderella says

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Dear Author,

These beautiful boys have a story to tell. A story of firsts. The first stirrings of attraction, the first feelings of love, the first

Exina says

4.5 stars

Dallas and Brooklyn have been enemies from first sight. But the last summer of high school, they are stuck working at the same store. At night. Together.

They agree to have a truce, but soon they discover that they get along pretty well, and actually *like* each other.

He was messing with the dials on his stereo. Soon, the distinct guitar style of one of my favorite alternative bands was pouring through the speakers.

“What? No Taylor Swift? Brooks and Dunn?”

Brooklyn shuddered. “Naw, man, I’m not into that stuff. Besides, that Swift chick—she’s a Yankee.”

I looked over at him. He was grinning. *Oh my God. Brooklyn Thorn is teasing me... not torturing but honest to god teasing.* I smiled back hesitantly. “Can’t trust us Yanks, can ya?”

“Yeah, you’re all trouble.”

Soon, amidst unexpected laughter and camaraderie, Dallas realizes that maybe the guy who used to be his number one enemy could actually be his perfect match.

His smile was huge and engaging. I couldn’t help but catch my breath. The last thing I needed was to notice that the guy who’d been my nemesis and sparring partner for more than half of my life was, well, *hot*.

Bridges is a heartwarming story about first love, especially considering Dallas and Brooklyn’s common history. I loved how they cosmically, unavoidably ended up together again and again.

Highly recommended!

Originally posted on my blog on January 15, 2015.

Trisha Harrington says

This was a really great short story! It was sort of an enemies to lovers and sort of a friends to lovers. The

MC's start off as enemies and then they become friends, and eventually lovers. It was nice to see the relationship develop and turn into something adorable.

Dallas and Brooklyn met in school and became enemies, they hated each other and couldn't stand to be paired together. But faith seemed to have other plans. They were always thrown together and both of them hated it. But then something changed and suddenly they found themselves becoming friends. Then, after a night in a tent, they became more.

This story really was amazing. One thing I loved is they were each others firsts. I don't know why I love that so much, but I do.

I loved the first person in the story, although I would have loved Brooklyn's POV too. Since it's a short, though, I'm glad we had the one because I wouldn't like to go back and forward over things. It flowed really well and I loved everything!

The ending made me laugh. I don't want to say why because it would spoil it for some people. But, yeah, it was a really great, fitting ending to the story.

Karla says

4 Fun Stars!

There is a thin line between love and hate! For Brooklyn and Dallas hate turns into mutual respect, and then love. Short, but not without with substance, it was sweet and complete! Love the play on the character names...you'll see! Cliche, but cute!

Thanks for the heads up on this one Heather!

Ami says

This one is so GOOD!! I actually love how you write the story from Dallas's point of view, so we experience what he feels, how Dallas doesn't really aware that Brooklyn's has seen him in a different light since years prior and it takes him by surprise. I LOVE IT. My favorite line is probably this ...

I was surprised. I had no idea what I was doing, other than from, well, lots of research... and by research I mean the kind where you have to erase your internet history when you're done so your parents don't see it.

Yes, RESEARCH IS GOOD! Thanks for the story!!!

Sara says

M.J. O'Shea knows the way straight to my heart and this hit hard and it was so damn good.

What is it about young boys, sexual tension and hot Texas nights that just hit THAT button for me? Brooklyn and Dallas have been enemies since the third grade. Regardless of their feelings for one another they keep finding themselves thrown together in situations that continually end with their non-friendly hands on one another. The summer after they graduate, they get jobs, *together*, stocking shelves over night. What do you do when your mortal enemy starts to seem not so evil and you start to see him different?

It felt kind of strange but for the first time since we'd met I didn't look at Brooklyn and see the biggest asshole in the universe. I just saw a regular guy and it was kind of a relief. We never brought up the subject of how we'd hated each other for nearly ten years. It would've made everything awkward when it was actually going pretty well between us for the first time ever.

I adored this story of self discovery and giving what you never considered a chance. Del and Brook were so damn sweet and they grabbed me from page one and the picture that inspired this story? It was perfect, the story was perfect...sigh...I am done.

Arthur says

This is such a nice and sweet story about two boys who have met since they were both in third grade. Since their last name begin with 'T', they were put in the same classes often. Both names are name after a location (Dallas and Brooklyn), which make them either best friends or sworn enemies. They became the latter. They were still enemies until the end of high school, when they were hired by a same store to work night shift. Slowly, they buried the hatches and became best friends. The rest of the book is on how they develop their relationship from friends into lovers.

I really loved reading this book. O'Shea's stories are sweet and nice, which I like. That this is a childhood 'friends' turn lovers make it even better for me.

Britta ★ Nachteule ★ says

*****Read as part of the free Don't Read in the Closet: Volume One anthology. Story #16*****

Cute enemies-to-lovers/YA/first love story.

4.5 stars Recommended all the way!

Edit

So I read the sequel. Check out my review of "The Key".

A Girl Has No Name says

Bridges is another wonderful short of the *Don't read in the Closet* event of the m/m romance group and I really liked this **enemies-to-lovers story**.

Dallas and Brooklyn hated each other at first sight and they didn't miss one single chance to have a fight since third grade. However, during their last summer of high school, the boys are forced to work at the same little store. While Dallas isn't happy about being stuck with his nemesis, he isn't about to refuse the job. Surprised by Brooklyn's effort to be polite and even friendly towards him, Dallas suddenly realizes that he likes to spend time with the person he hated the most during all these years.

A sweet friendship starts to develop and soon transforms in something else. I loved the pace of the story and the way the main characters acted towards each other. And sometimes hate and love really aren't that far from each other.

Lovely short read about a **twist of fate leading to first love!** 4 stars!

Ingie says

Written January 16, 2014

4 Stars - youthful sweet and cute about to discover that the lad you "pulled the cap off and threw a snowball on" might be your future love

Bridges is a short novella about two young boys, both with city-names (crazy parents?), and their lovely very innocent first love. ~ Very cute with high *youth-recognition* without ever becoming sticky and silly.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Dallas Thomason is moving to *Sugarcreek, Texas* (the last place he wanted to be) when he is in third grade. From the very first day Dallas met **Brooklyn Thorn** on the playground he "hated" him. A few fights and they are bitter enemies all the years through school.

...The years go by and so **the summer before college** they both want the same summer job in the supermarket.

'Should've effing known. Brooklyn Goddamned Thorn. Was there no escape? That jerk would probably get the job too since he'd been on the soccer team and the football team with all the other town heroes and I was just a (scrappy) little bookworm guy with floppy hair and glasses (at least until I'd gotten contacts the year before). No one is ever recognized all over town for being good at schoolwork.'

'I was starting to wonder if me and Brooklyn Thorn might just be stuck together for life. I have to say that was fine with me.'

Another wonderful short story to become soft and warm in the heart by. These free gay romances from the *MM Romance Group* often proves to be beautiful small gems very worth to read.

And I know there isn't any snow in Texas...

I LIKE - summer sweet and young tender love - just smiling...

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*Freebie from MM Romance Group, "Hot Summer Days 2011".*

*See the letter and the lovely pic here: <https://www.goodreads.com/topic/show/...>*

*and get the ebook to download here: <https://www.goodreads.com/ebooks/down...>*

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**Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says**

I really enjoyed this nice little free story. Thanks M.J. O'Shea for this one. For a very short story, it feels pretty complete, which takes talent. Sure, it is HEAVY on the sappiness but I love a good enemies to lovers story. Combine that with a coming-of-age tale and virgins? You got me, you got me so good.

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