



The Only Way Out Is In

Lyn Gala

Download now

Read Online →

The Only Way Out Is In

Lyn Gala

The Only Way Out Is In Lyn Gala

Dear Author,

Jayne Cobb, of Firefly fame, struck me as a man deep in the closet, striving to be hyper masculine, and completely misogynistic, simply to hide his attraction to men. I'm thinking Kinsey three or four. This would also explain his extreme dislike of the shy Dr Simon (who we now know was played by a gay man).

I'd love to see a post Serenity, space opera treatment of someone like Jayne's self-realization. Now what would be his type... hmmm... what man would finally drive him wild enough to face up to his repressed desires. It should include all of the attendant emotional turmoil (inside monologue) of someone with his low IQ and high survival instincts, and yet include the outside language of someone who was trained to say as much with as few words as possible. This man has depth, but the waters are pretty murky.

Anyone take the challenge?

Photo Description:

The original request included a promotional shot of Jayne Cobb, a character from Firefly. He is gruff with a face shadowed by stubble, and he is crouched and holding a gun. The request wanted "a man deep in the closet, striving to be hyper-masculine, and completely misogynistic, simply to hide his attraction to men."

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.

The Only Way Out Is In Details

Date : Published June 11th 2013 by M/M Romance Group @ Goodreads

ISBN :

Author : Lyn Gala

Format : ebook 102 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Science Fiction

 [Download The Only Way Out Is In ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Only Way Out Is In ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Only Way Out Is In Lyn Gala

From Reader Review The Only Way Out Is In for online ebook

Elizabetta says

Jacqs, a combat soldier demoted to lowly gunner on the spaceship Candiru, is based on a character in the TV sci-fi series "Firefly", and like his inspiration, he is a jerk. And he seems to be constantly on the sexual prowl. But to hear Jacqs talk, he has fended off and has no interest in the advances of "hypersexualized, queer-turned and pansexual types". The lad doth protest too much, methinks.

"Jacqs had never sexed a male. He was pure het. Always had been, always would be."

Lesson one: never say never...

It's so easy to dislike him. Uncouth, dim, narrow-minded... What is up with this guy? But, there is a little more to the picture, hints of an early life full of hardship and abuse...

"Jacqs couldn't quite imagine telling anyone how he felt sick inside watching people get bullied."

When his new CO, Zeke Waters, comes on board, things start changing and one of them is Jacqs. Hidden under all the bluster there is a heart. Training sessions between the two on a sparring mat turn into a different kind of mating dance. Worthy opponents with similar life experiences, Zeke and Jacqs could be a match made in heaven. Reading this sure was fun. This one's going on my favorites shelf for the LHNB 2013 writing event.

Kat says

This is possibly, probably, certainly my favorite story of this year's LHNB event.

That has a lot to do with the fact that I'm a *Firefly* fangirl. Addict. Crazy. To the extent that my hatred for Fox for canceling the show after only one season knows no boundaries and will be everlasting. Anyway, hours after I had posted a desperate plea for *Firefly* fanfic, Elizabetta pointed this story out to me. It was like it was meant to be. So there's that.

For those who, *oddly enough*, have never heard of or watched *Firefly* and the conclusive film *Serenity*, I added a few clues to Jayne's (well, his name is Jacqs in this story, but really, psht, fuck that) personality in the form of GIFs. I know, I normally don't appreciate the exaggerated usage of GIFs either, but it feels like the right thing to do now.

The guy in the yellow shirt would be Jayne.

As the prompt already makes clear, he's a pretty *special* guy. And if you're not familiar with him, chances are that you won't get why the author chose such a handicapped, annoying narrator and rate this story accordingly.

AND THAT WOULD BE SAD.

But Lyn Gala absolutely nailed both Jayne's character and the Firefly atmosphere. I thought the prompt presented such a fun idea (Mateo, whoever you are, you rock!), but I hadn't expected the story itself to be this entertaining! Of course, being a Firefly fan is only part of why I digged this story. After all the little man/big man, slave/master and boy/boy stories I've read lately I craved a little alpha on alpha action. I really enjoy the aggressiveness, sense of danger, hot lust and the not knowing who ends up on top dynamics of this pairing.

Other than that, the hilariousness, slow-burning sexiness, fun sparring scenes, good writing and, last but not least, the fact that *The Only Way Out Is In* is both free and a novella, make this story a delicious treat!

Now, where's my story about Mal?;))

Jewel says

How is it that I was unaware of the existence of this book! I am a *Firefly* fan (pretty much the best show ever) and the prompt that gave life to *The Only Way Out Is In* really got my imagination going. Hell, considering the character Jayne Cobb was and the political leanings of the actor who played him, I loved this story even more. And I could definitely hear Jayne's voice when I read the dialogue.

When the story starts, Jacqs is pretty much an ass. He's crude and tends to make rather misogynistic and homophobic comments on a regular basis. He's not that smart, either. But as the story goes on and we get to know him better, we see where those feelings come from, and he even evolves a bit. Realizing and facing his attraction to Zeke helps greatly with that, as well.

I look forward to reading the continuation of Jacqs and Zeke's story in *Turbulence*.

Sunny says

Great characterization and world building. I really liked this story and can't wait to read more. I have a hard time with dialect in a story, but the way the author used grammar to help create Jacqs' character was perfect.

Ery says

This was quite good. Thank you, Lyn!

Emma Sea says

My favourite from LHNB to date, no contest.

Ami says

3.5 stars

I have a feeling that *Firefly* or Jess Whedon's fans will appreciate this story way more than I did. I never watch the show *shrugs* and well, I just feel 'okay' with Whedon's works. So I read this without knowing the character (Jayne Cobb) who would be the "base" of Jacqs. Oh, and I also approached this as a non sci-fi fans.

I enjoyed it, though. I thought Jacqs were a character who "walk the walk". He might sound rude and a world-class bastard, but to me, he was refreshing. Jacqs was honest with his thoughts, he didn't over-complicate things. When faced with challenge, he didn't back down -- even if the challenge was 'questioning his own sexuality orientation'. I also liked how Lyn Gala wrote the way Jacqs talked; fit so much with how the prompt letter said about "*someone with his low IQ and high survival instincts*". This was Alpha on Alpha kind of story and it was good.

My issue with the story -- which stopped it from being higher than 3.5 stars -- was that I missed a bit about Zeke as the love interest and what actually got him attracted to Jacqs. I got the process (and progress) of Jacqs seeing Zeke in a different light, but not the other way around. Sure, Zeke said something about it when Jacqs asked, but I wasn't completely convinced.

Oh, and also the whole talks about sexual orientations were dragging the story a bit for me. It was nice that Lyn Gala provided the glossary in the end, but I wished there were less arguments about it in the story itself.

Anna says

Looks like another book that everyone loved but me. I could not stand Jacqs from the start but I continued reading thinking that maybe he'd grow on me, but that didn't happen. I ended up skimming through the last 40% too, because all the sexual orientation talk got so annoying and boring. And on top of that, I didn't feel any chemistry between the MCs.

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

um... don't hate me but... what is Firefly???

Meep says

It's wonderful to pick a up a book with low expectations and then be blown away. I started this as a browse before bed and was caught until I finished it. Loved it.

I enjoyed Firefly but I'm not a huge fan of it, just enough that I recognised Jayne and was interested by the prompt. Thought it would be a light fanfic but though the world is similar if you tilt your head, the characters

are their own and strongly written.

Jacqs is a tough man, I wouldn't say thick but he has a simple view of things; stopping a fight is the right thing to do so he does it, his words won't help and he'll get in trouble regardless - so lead with his fist. He doesn't waste time on tangents even when the issue is his own sexuality. It means he can surprise you. Also that he can come across as a complete asshole, despite his core of decency!
There's enough history given to show how his personality developed and to explain his less choice views.

Zeke a gruff battle-scarred man now running a crew of pampered soldiers is attracted by the straightforwardness and physicality of Jacqs. He sees beyond the attitude and is himself another tough alpha man. They're a good match, Zeke a whole lot more diplomatic though.

I like them together. Loved them coming together ;)

The language suits the characters but it could put some people off, according to my kindle f*ck is used 57 times.

The one thing that bugged me was the constant discussing sexuality; it's futuristic and people are more open, yet they're all very caught up on the terminology and labelling each other which seems counter-productive. To the point there needs to be a glossary at the end to explain all the terms. It felt like a lesson being driven home and over-emphasised.

Loved it though. Mild sci-fi, strong dynamic characters. Fans of Firefly will probably love it, others maybe less so.

Camille Adams says

3.75

I thought this was great!

Apart from my pleasure in the story, I like the organic way in which Gala writes worlds. No info dumps etc. We're just posited in the story and we're seamlessly granted access. Well done.

Nina says

Jacqs is a refreshing character, in that he's a bit of a bastard, but he's also unafraid to face things head-on, and despite not being the best at communication in general he's unflinchingly honest and, delightfully, a total smartass.

As Ami said, the way the author took one line from the prompt - *low IQ and high survival instincts* - and built a well-rounded, believable character with a specific speech pattern out of it makes for great, high-quality entertainment.

The whole crew is a group of people I wouldn't mind finding out more about, because they're interesting and well-defined without being clichés - Zeke in particular.

By the time we got to the sex, I was all tied up in knots, and even though I wouldn't have minded a couple

dozen more pages of it, it fully delivered.

Speaking of sex and sexuality, the whole sexual identity classification issue is dead interesting, and in my opinion it was handled with just the right amount of specificity and focus.

I'm going to dream that this is just the first third of a full-length novel with all the juicy sexual tension and pornographic fighting I found here and more of the warfare and actual dangerous situations I only had a secondhand peek of.

ETA: HOLD THE FUCK UP I JUST FOUND OUT THAT THIS IS A THING
PRAISE THE LORD

ETA #2: and this. Save me.

Lilia Ford says

I can't say enough in praise of Lyn Gala's sci-fi work. Claimings, Tails and Other Alien Artifacts was already a favorite-I've reread it multiple times and always found something new to ponder in it. The Only Way Out Is In is every bit as strong. What makes these works stand out so much is the way they use the sci-fi setting to explore concepts, in this case how people identify themselves sexually. After reading the story, it's hard not to be convinced that our own categories of "heterosexual," "homosexual," or "bisexual" are hopelessly impoverished and unimaginative--why can't we have pansexuals and stenosexuals, (whether dynamic and non-dynamic) as well? Moreover the idea that people could simply register their preference so that others might know if they're compatible--HELPFUL! Also, reasonable, logical, and humane.

Just because the ideas are especially fascinating does not imply that the story or characters are in any way lacking--they're great and the chemistry between the two leads is sizzling. The story-telling itself is also highly efficient, creating a complex, fully developed universe, as well as a ship's crew of twenty individuals, in a mere 100 pages.

Final note: those who read the background material for "Love has no Boundaries" will know that the prompt was based on a character from Firefly. I am a huge, HUGE Firefly and Serenity fan. I loved the prompt and it definitely created an added level of interest for me to see how Gala tackled the character of Jayne and also what she did differently, but it is hardly necessary for enjoying this story. Certainly, there are enough differences that if I'd not known ahead of time, I probably wouldn't have connected them--this is not fan-fiction.

What it is, is an extremely intelligent, thought-provoking exploration of our ideas of sexual identity, as well as an all round fun, sexy sci-fi story.

Ingie says

[

*...not this pic, but I liked this drawing
of Jayne more.*

(hide spoiler)]

Julio Genao says

refreshing, and flawed.

after enduring a seemingly endless and aggressively wholesome parade of mewling twinkies paired with growling musclebears, i relished the chance to read a story that featured *two* musclebears *taking turns* mewling and growling at one another, and getting charmingly flustered while they were at it.

it felt male, even when it kinda wasn't.

i saw none of my beloved *firefly* in this at all.

i am pleased by this, regardless of the original prompt.

ms. Gala, as I discovered when I read *Claimings, Tails and Other Alien Artifacts*, is a wonderfully inspired author of clever twists on old chestnuts, and she cracks them open just fine without leaning too heavily on the original trope.

this one has its share of problems, however.

way too talky and static, this story would have benefitted from richer settings and developments that unfold outside of two or three locations on a ship ms. gala didn't trouble to describe very much beyond an overall sketch of dilapidation and battle-unreadiness.

i think this flaw ironically stems from what is one of the author's chief strengths: character development. she's invested so much into crafting her human beings (and there are many fun archetypes represented herein) that she may have forgotten to apply the same attention to detail to her setting.

as a result, an unfortunate amount of this story reads like a stage play, wherein the audience is expected to supply their own imaginations to fill in the blanks to a greater degree.

another example of this is the sexual classification scheme laid out in painful detail throughout. i can see there was some thought given to not barfing up an entire galactic wiki on the sexual diaspora of a star-faring human civilization, but it's been designed so well and so thoroughly—the sexual anthropology aspect—that there is no elegant way of introducing all those concepts at once, spread out a bit or no.

it's dull, in other words—even though it's fascinating. which is, i feel, a fair assessment of this aspect of the story, incoherence be damned.

all those clever ideas just needed more room to filter through to the reader organically.

i felt cheated by the sex.

i grumbled to myself about (view spoiler)

i *also* grumbled to myself about the likelihood that (view spoiler)

i grumbled about these things even as i fumbled around on my bed with a sticky hand, intending to leave my DNA on the sleep shorts I'd momentarily removed in order to enthusiastically fap my dick off to what turned out to be an *incredibly enjoyable sex scene* all the same.

it was too short, though. had to read it twice.

luckily, the baffling glossary—featuring words never used in the text—is a pretty solid indication that this story is a heavily stripped-down version of a longer work.*

about which I can only say: *hellfuckyes*.

*helpfully confirmed by loederkoningin in her review.
