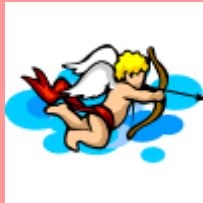


Cupid Traps



Collection of Short Romance Stories

By Anusuya Veth

About This Book

Cupid Traps is a compilation of modern romance fiction.

This is the debut short fiction collection by Anusuya Veth (ironically she hasn't fallen into any cupid traps yet!) who has a great passion for writing stories and poetry.

While coping with work and study she devotes her free time to writing stories and maintaining her creative websites 'Wow Mag' & 'Celebrity Jam'.

Wow Mag – http://www.geocities.com/wow_mag

Celebrity Jam – <http://celebrityjam.ontheweb.com>

If you wish to contact or email your feedback to the author

send your emails to wow_mag@yahoo.com

Log on to Cupid Traps at <http://www.geocities.com/cupidtraps>

Copyright Anusuya Veth 2003. All rights reserved.

No part of this book may be copied, reproduced or altered without written permission from the author.

CONTENTS

1. Cupid At Work - 4

2. Taking A Chance - 16

3. A Date with Mr. Rival - 34

Cupid at Work

Cupid At Work

"He's coming," Mary Jacobs whispered to her sounding excited. Ashley Jones stole a fast glance and saw the tall man making his way towards them. She quickly diverted her gaze to the newspaper she was holding in her hands.

"Hi, Jed!" cried Mary cheerfully but Ashley pretended to be vastly absorbed in the paper.

"Hi!" he answered. As usual, he looked smart and professional; his hair which reached his collar looked too long for a man but on him it just added a reckless look. He looked so confident that she wondered whether he was born with it. He obviously had the charisma. Whenever he walked into a room, everybody noticed him. Of course, the women would never be able to take their eyes off him. He wasn't drop-dead gorgeous but he possessed a certain reckless charisma.

That smug confidence with his brooding good looks helped him gain attention among the females effortlessly.

His eyes, the shade of hot chocolate were now looking at her and she shifted her gaze back to the print of her paper. She hated looking at his eyes. They always disturbed her.

She wondered how could a guy with rugged features have such lovely long eyelashes! It was a sin for a man to have such beautiful lashes! His sharp nose looked aristocratic while his stubborn jaw made him formidable and of course, his well-built physique made him stand apart from the other men in the place. In short, he was totally masculine. "I want to see you in my office later," he announced suddenly breaking the silence. Ashley looked up and saw him nod curtly and leave.

What was that supposed to mean? Ashley wondered with irritation. Mary stifled a giggle.

"How lucky you are!" Mary winked at her.

"I'm lucky? You are kidding! It must be about the report I had prepared. He loves to find fault with everything I do." Ashley's eyes flashed with annoyance.

"Come on! Any woman would love to be called into his office. You have to appreciate this chance," Mary exclaimed her eyes twinkling mischievously.

"Maybe to you he's a Greek God but not to me. He's so arrogant and unreasonable that I can't believe that you actually worship the ground he walks as if he's godsend," rambled Ashley sarcastically.

"I have always wondered about the chemistry between the two of you whenever you meet," added Mary slyly.

"Please, don't get carried away by silly thoughts. He's not my type," declared Ashley furiously and Mary chuckled. Ashley shot her a frowning look.

"Why are you getting so worked up for? But since you are his assistant how do you find working for him? It's a great pleasure isn't it?" Mary's eyes turned dreamy as if she was indulging in some secret fantasy with Jed Martin. Ashley smirked and rolled her eyes heavenward seeing Mary's trance-like look.

"I have only been here for a week and I find that he's an awful person to work with. Believe me, he's not your average Mr. Nice guy at all!" Mary was obviously smitten with Jed but she was not!

How could she convince her dear colleague that Jed was no simple man? He was a perfectionist and a very domineering boss too.

He had made her retype a proposal she had typed so many times that her patience had run short and she had nearly felt like telling him to do it himself. How would she understand? Ashley sighed as she saw how dreamy Mary's eyes would get whenever someone mentions Jed's name. The lass was besotted with the man without even knowing what kind of person he was!

"I noticed that you omitted some information in the report." He fixed her with an intense probing gaze.

She managed to look cool though she knew that inside she was a nervous wreck. She wondered why he had the power to make her feel so unsure and uncomfortable in his presence. She knew that he must have sensed her nervousness. Maybe he was laughing at her thinking what a coward she was or worse still being egoistic about how women always trembled under his gaze. Huh! I am not like the other women, thought Ashley with derision.

"Did you hear what I just said?" He stared back at her giving her a brooding look.

"Of course." Ashley stared back at him in the eye, not flinching at all.

"All right, Ashley. I expect the report back at my desk by today," he declared in a nonsense tone of voice.

"Sure," answered Ashley stiffly.

"Another thing, Ashley. I realize that you are not used to writing a report so if you need help you can ask me."

"Sure, but I doubt I would need your help. I can do it on my own," Ashley replied coolly and she could see the amusement in his eyes.

"You actually said that!" Mary's eyes were wide open with ill-concealed surprise.

"Why should I be afraid of him? Anyway, I don't need HIS help in writing the report!"

Ashley scoffed.

"Seriously, I think you are blind!" Mary declared throwing her hands up in the air as if Ashley was really hopelessly blind!

"Maybe, I am." Ashley shrugged her shoulders carelessly.

"One day, you are going to be attracted by him. Maybe, he is always picking on you so that he can get closer to you." Mary's eyes gleamed with excitement.

Ashley laughed it off by replying, "Your imagination is running wild, Mary!"

It was seven p.m. and she had just finished the report. She almost sulked at the thought of putting the report at his desk. What if he still insisted that the report was incomplete?

That thought almost made her groan in misery. Nevertheless, she marched to his office and realized that the light in his office was still on.

After knocking on the door, she heard him call, "Come in!"

He looked up as she entered and she said, "I have finished the report."

He took the report and exclaimed, "I'll read it later."

She turned around and was about to leave when she heard him ask, "Are you free for dinner?"

She turned around and gave him a cold look. "I'm not free."

"The reason why I am asking you for dinner is to discuss about the meeting which is going to be held for the new business proposal. You don't have to worry that the dinner is for other social reasons." His eyes were twinkling with humor as if he could read her mind.

Ashley's face grew red with embarrassment. He still had the cheek to look at her and grin as if he was talking to an ignorant kid.

Ashley was at a loss for words but he asked with a mocking gaze, "So, are you free for this business dinner?"

"Yes, I am free," she replied avoiding his eyes. She felt like escaping from his office. Why did he always have to embarrass her? He just smiled at her strangely and she realized that the smile brighten up his face and made him look more handsome. Realizing that she was close to gawking she abruptly stammered, "I will wait for you at the lobby," and left quickly.

"The meeting would be on next Wednesday, right?"

"Yes, I am putting you in charge of the preparations."

"That would be fine."

"How do you find working with me?" he asked surprising her.

"It's not that bad," Ashley answered frankly.

"Am I such an awful boss?" he chuckled looking at her.

"No, you aren't," Ashley was surprised at the warm and easy-going way he was talking to her now. In the office, he was always cool and distant but now he was a different person.

"You are always so quiet unlike the other women in the office."

"I don't like to gossip. I concentrate on my work more than talking unnecessarily."

"I noticed that you are a very frank person as well." Jed gave her an admiring gaze.

"How do you know that? You don't know me well," she commented with curiosity.

"I can see the way you answer me. Besides I can see that you always tell the truth rather than lying. Even about the report; you didn't like me helping you and you told me straight away. I like that." He shot her a brief engaging grin.

"Really? I thought that you might be offended." Ashley gave him a wary look.

"No, I am not offended. But I got to tell you that I am very serious when it comes to work," Jed revealed in a professionally serious tone.

Soon, the two of them found themselves easily conversing and Ashley was surprised to learn that Jed Martin was amiable after all.

Ashley heard the doorbell rang and she went to check who it was. Standing at her doorstep was her neighbour Peter Daniels. As usual Peter was very neatly dressed. No ruffles in his shirt and Ashley was wondering inside her mind how many times had he ironed his shirt to look that tidy!

"Hi!" As usual he had a friendly smile on his face. Ashley often wondered if he ever suffered from bad moods cause he always had an ultra optimistic grin each day. It was as if all were going super smoothly in his life. Maybe he is real lucky, she thought. Not like me having a demanding boss, she groaned thinking about Jed.

"Hi," she greeted back wondering why he was there.

“Are you busy today?” he asked smiling sheepishly.

“No.” Was he going to ask her out?

“I have got two tickets to the concert tonight and I was wondering if you are free to catch it.”

He had a very hopeful look on his face.

Ashley shrugged. “I am free.” Peter was so elated by her acceptance that it showed on his face.

Later that evening Ashley wondered whether she had made a big mistake by going for the concert. It turned out to be a boring one and after that they had gone for coffee. Just when she thought that maybe the evening would turn a little interesting Peter made it a complete drag. He had dominated the entire date. He had gone talking non-stop about his business and how successful it was going to be. She had nearly dozed off and she wondered if he had noticed her numerous yawns.

But throughout their entire date, he had never asked anything about her. Not even one question. That was when Ashley wondered how she had failed to see what a self-centered and boastful man her nice neighbour was!

As he sent her home Peter exclaimed enthusiastically, “I had a wonderful time. Guess we should meet up often.”

Ashley sighed and wondered what would he think if she had revealed how boring she had felt throughout the date. Not wanting to hurt his feelings she just shrugged carelessly and smiled.

Of course, Peter did not notice her disinterest and strolled off to his house whistling. Ashley muttered to herself, ‘What a boring and absolutely self-centered man!’

Two weeks later, when Ashley was leaving her office for home she got an emergency call from her mother. Her grandfather was sick and had been rushed to the hospital. Ashley got frantic with worry. It was just six p.m. and she knew that if she took the bus, it would take ages to reach the hospital. As she waited for a cab, she didn't notice Jed until he stood beside her.

"What's wrong?" he asked noticing the tension on her face.

"I need to get a cab to reach the hospital. My grandfather is seriously ill." She glanced frantically at her watch.

"Come, I'll drive you there," he offered and soon they reached the hospital in ten minutes.

"Thanks for your help," Ashley exclaimed looking at him thankfully.

"That's nothing. We better hurry to find the ward in which your grandfather is in."

Upon reaching the ward, the doctor told them that Ashley's grandfather was out of danger and was in stable condition. Ashley was relieved to hear the news. She turned to Jed who was still beside her. "Why don't you leave first? It is getting late."

"Take care," he told her and left.

When Mary heard about Jed driving her to the hospital, she exclaimed, "I told you that he's a great guy, didn't I?"

"Yes, I guess so," Ashley smiled sheepishly. She couldn't help wondering how helpful Jed had been to her.

Soon, time flew and Ashley found that Jed could be a person to get along with easily and she enjoyed working with him. It was on Valentines Day that she saw the bouquet of red roses lying on her desk. With excitement Mary searched through the bouquet and found the card.

It read, "*For Ashley Jones, have a beautiful Valentines Day. With Love, a secret admirer.*"

"Isn't it romantic?" gushed Mary staring at the roses.

"I wonder who sent it?" Ashley was puzzled. Was it a prank?

She turned suspiciously at Mary who replied defensively, "I am not guilty of this. I suspect somebody really likes you. Look at the roses. He's in love with you."

The entire day, Ashley was thinking about the person who had sent the flowers. Who could that be? She guessed it to be Peter. After all he knew where she was working. She sighed at the thought of Peter being her secret admirer.

On the other hand, she wondered whether it could be Jed? She then brushed that ridiculous thought away. It was impossible that he could be the one. Even today, she had gone to his office to give him some documents but he seemed busy as usual and he didn't behave strangely at all. Maybe, I'll just forget about it, she told herself.

But before leaving her office, she went to Jed's office to submit the sales report.

"I need your help in coming up with the new product proposal. Do you want to discuss it over dinner?" he asked busily browsing through some files.

"Sure."

"Are you going to celebrate Valentines Day with anybody? Just asking, in case I'm disturbing your arrangements."

"No, I have no plans tonight so it's fine with me."

The restaurant looked elegant. Huge crystal chandeliers hung beautifully from the ceiling. She could see a number of couples dining and her mind went back to thinking about the identity of her secret admirer.

"Do you like the place?" he asked his eyes resting on her.

"Yes, it is really grand."

"So, how's your Valentines Day?"

"Nothing exciting," laughed Ashley remembering the roses.

"Really? I thought you must have got some beautiful red roses," Jed smiled with a mischievous glint in his eyes.

"Mary told you about the flowers? Oh no! The whole office must have known about the flowers then," groaned Ashley thinking how talkative her friend was.

"No, she didn't tell me about the roses." Jed smiled mysteriously, watching her expression closely.

"Then how?" Ashley Jones started but stopped as it hit her. He was the secret admirer? She looked at him dumbfounded.

"Yes, I am that secret admirer. I just wanted to reveal my feelings to you at the right place and at the right time. But most importantly, I want to know whether I can court you? I promise I won't send anonymous roses anymore."

Ashley laughed. With her eyes twinkling with elation she replied, "With hundred percent approval, I agree to you courting me."

She felt joyful as she gazed at Jed who had an elated look on his handsome face. It seemed that romance had indeed crept into her life after all.

Taking A Chance

Taking A Chance

“The kids look so cute!” gushed Nicole Barnell.

Myra Vaz agreed on her statement but a pang of sadness grabbed her heart. These kids though young and lovely all suffered from abuse. Abuse from irresponsible parents who had ill-treated them. Both Nicole and Myra were visiting a children’s home. They had heard about the home from a colleague and they wanted to visit it. It was a first time visit for Myra and it was an experience that she would never forget. The kids’ eyes which spoke of hurt and pain made her feel sad. Suddenly Myra wondered why there was so much pain in the world. If only everyone truly loves everyone else. Truly loved. The words struck an ache in her heart and she brushed those past memories away.

“Guess we are done for the day. Let’s go for lunch. I am starving,” Nicole grumbled making Myra forget about her worries.

She looked very vulnerable, he thought. Her big brown were sad as usual and she seemed as though she was occupied with deep thoughts in her mind. He thought of approaching her and asking her how was her day.

Myra looked up. It was Mark Reynolds. She had not noticed him. Obviously he had been observing her and he looked concerned. She didn’t feel like talking to anyone, especially Mark who seemed to know what was on her mind most of the time. She stood up calmly and hoped that he wouldn’t be able to see the sadness and loneliness in her eyes.

“Hi,” he started with a friendly grin.

Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

