



Override

S.J.D. Peterson

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An Underground Club Tale

Don't judge a book by its cover....

At over six feet, with a body honed in the gym, auto worker Donovan Gregory is used to people assuming he's a dominant top. Unfortunately, they're wrong, and Donovan's desire to explore his submissive side goes unfulfilled.

Smaller and older than Donovan, Dr. Seth Manning might not look like a typical Dominant, but when the two men meet at Pride, Donovan realizes Seth might be his perfect counterpart. The trouble is, Donovan doesn't have as much experience with the BDSM world as he'd like. What could an educated, handsome, and confident man like Seth possibly see in someone like him? Seth must convince him that despite the differences on the surface, when it comes to kinky fun and discovery, they'll fit together just fine.

Override Details

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From Reader Review Override for online ebook

Chelsea says

4 hearts

I think because my taste for BDSM focused stories tends to run on the darker side, I find it hard to equate absolute fluffiness with BDSM. I now can do that with no issue, because it was done absolutely perfectly here!

We follow Seth, a 33 year old doctor who is a well established Dom, and Donovan, a 25 year old factory worker who is currently exploring his submissive side, as they fall in love hard and fast. What drew me into this story was the fact the Donovan is a lot physically larger than Seth. Seth is far from effeminate, just lean and average height, compared to Donovan's 6ft 2, 200lbs. It was hot, but I was pretty disappointed there was no over the knee spanking, that's always a winner with a big sub.

“People expect a lot from you. Growing up, you were told big boys don't cry. Because of your size, your friends looked at you as the protector. At work and play, you're the guy who can handle anything, the go-to guy. You pride yourself on being able to help others, but deep down”— Seth teased his fingers across Donavan's chest, down to his stomach but ignoring his cock—“ you want to let go. To hand that power of control to someone else. ”

The connection these two feel towards each other is immediate and encapturing, as they fall in love fast and without any issues. Despite the speed of their connection, it didn't feel like insta-love. Maybe because the chemistry was palpable and based on more than just attraction, or possibly because they didn't rush the progression of the relationship, and took things one step at a time. Whatever it was, it worked really well.

The BDSM scenes are very very light! There's one flogging scene, but mostly it's about the dynamic of Dominant and Submissive. Even then, Seth and Donovan don't want the lifestyle full-time, so they're equals outside the bedroom, which ends up being the majority of the story.

They did feel more like a versatile couple, one just preferring to bottom more often. There was one particularly hot scene which had me salivating slightly, it was one of my favourite kinks, role-playing!!! Yum yum!

I like my fluff books to have a teeny tiny bit of conflict, preferably from outside the relationship. If they don't have any, I find the story starts to drag. While this book didn't feel like a fluff overload, it became dangerously close and it may have been too much if it had gone for much longer.

Highly recommended for people who aren't too sure about BDSM, but want just a smidge of dominating in the bedroom on top of a sweet love story.

Gigi says

3.5 stars

To fully enjoy a M/M BDSM novel (of which there are very few I actually *love*) there needs to be two main elements:

1. There needs to be passion and a connection between the partners. Examples of wonderful passion and romance filled BDSM books include *Bound by Lies*, *Power Exchange* and *Load the Dice: The Complete Series*.
2. The Dom cannot treat the sub like a child (unless it is part of their particular kink) and the sub cannot act like a child. Examples of childish, gossiping, subs with little to no ability to think outside their relationship with their Dom are *Cisco's Boy*, *Dom of Ages* and *Reaching the Edge*.

With *Override*, we are off to a great start as far as my preferences are concerned! It has two lovely men, one a big, brawny auto worker named Donovan who is interested in exploring his submissive side, and the other a physically slight, beautiful OBGYN name Seth who is a fair and kinky Dom. They meet at a Pride event, do a public scene together and are soon in an exclusive D/s relationship. Their sex scenes are *blisteringly* hot and filled with comfort and explanation and understating, passion and eventually love. No one is treated like a child. Donovan is not dumbed-down to a meat-head mentality and the economic differences between the men become a non-issue. Perfect!

"Open your mouth."

Donovan gladly did and stuck out his tongue as well. The first brush of Seth's cock against his tongue sent a thrill racing down Donovan's spine. As it pushed past his lips, he moaned at the musky flavor, slightly bitter, intoxicating, completely Seth. Seth tightened his hold on Donovan's hair.

"Suck it."

(view spoiler)

But, I hate to say it... It was **TOO** perfect. There were no fights, no anger, no meddling friends, no scorned ex-lovers, no physical peril, no homophobic family members, no breakups and no tension. Hey, I love a good, flat-out no-angst sugary sweet M/M romance as much as the next sap who mood-reads, but this is *SDJ Peterson*, and *kinky-as-fuck* BDSM and **look at that motherfucking cover!** I really needed a flaw or two with these characters. **SOMETHING!** I just wasn't satisfied in the end. It may be my mood or my built-up exceptions, but I didn't love this one. I liked it, but I wanted to love it.

Some critiques:

1. The last 20% of the book was spent introducing us to characters that will be in the future books in the series. Since I was disappointed in Seth and Donovan's too perfect relationship, I was hoping for at *least* a lovers spat or something at that point. But it was just all future character introductions.
2. The book stopped at 89%. There is a special section at the end highlighting the next book in the series, which I love and is greatly appreciated, but I am one who watches how close I am to the end so this threw me off a little. I hope it helps some of you that also like to keep track.

I do eagerly await the second book and hope these two new men have a few obstacles thrown in their path. We'll see!

Recommended to those that want a no-angst BDSM romance.

Galley copy of Override provided by Dreamspinner Press in exchange of an honest review.

This review is also posted at Gay Book Reviews

Jewel says

3.5 Stars

Override is sweet, sexy and low angst. And I knew there was little to no angst going in, but I am still very much trained to look for it, so I kept expecting *something* to happen. But, nope, the story is sweet from beginning to end.

I liked the story, quite a lot, but I think I would have liked it more if there had been some sort of conflict. Wouldn't have to be angst for the sake of angst, mind you, but *something*. I enjoyed both MC's and loved that they found each other. And, I loved that Seth, who has more education and is a doctor, never treated Donovan, who is a factory worker, as anything other than an equal (when the D/s wasn't coming into play). There definitely could have been some issues there and while I would have loved some conflict, I'm glad that wasn't used. I also loved loved loved the scene where they switched roles. That Seth would want that, being a Dom, I found refreshing and more than satisfying.

The friends and family members, I have to say, I found a little too good to be true, though. Everyone was so damn happy, it was a little like reading *The Brady Bunch*. Coming from my background, it's hard to imagine, but I know there are families out there that actually get along and like each other. But, for me, that's so unreal. But I digress...

If you're looking for sweet, sexy and low angst, with a side of BDSM-lite, read *Override*.

.Lili. says

This book was not what I was expecting.

I was expecting angst and heavy BDSM. Instead, it was the polar opposite. Sometimes when a book isn't what we envisioned, it can work against it but for me, it worked out great.

whispers You see I admit I'm not big into BDSM.

You're probably shaking your head asking yourself- why read it then?

For three reasons:

1. THE COVER. I freely admit to being a cover whore, and this cover is gorgeous.
2. SJD
3. The blurb. I was interested in reading about a couple that fits in a way that we don't expect.

Why it worked for me:

-Low angst. There's no big drama here. It's a simple story of two men falling in love. A slice of life type book.

-BDSM. I didn't think it was "BDSMy"- maybe a couple of things here and there. If you're not giving this book a try because of the BDSM aspect, I don't think you should worry about it.

-I enjoyed the characters- both the protagonists and supporting cast.

-The romance was sweet.

-The sex was hot.

-And it ends with a solid HEA.

It all just kind of fit my mood. I needed some book TLC, and that's what I got. While reading it felt like I was engulfed in my favorite fleece blanket with some hot cocoa. It was very much a comfort read.

If you're looking for a "kick in the stomach" type angst, this is not the book for you. If you're not in the mood to have your heart stomped on and need a sweet, steamy pick me up give this one a go! 4 Stars.

ARC kindly provided by Dreamspinner Press to Gay Book Reviews for an honest review.

Tamika♥RBF MOOD♥ says

3.5 stars

This was sugary sweet fluff. I keep referring to it as BDSM Lite!!! It's not a bad thing, it was the opposite of what I was expecting that's all. Super sweet, low angst, feel good story. Nothing here to complain about folks just keep it pushing!

Sure we got the vice versus switch of the mc physical stands on BDSM. We have Donovan who from all appearances looks like a top, a Dom and wouldn't have a submissive bone in his body. This is where looks clearly are deceiving folks. He's craving to submit to someone but clearly scared. A golden opportunity is given to him at Pride one day. There he meets Seth. At first glance Seth doesn't look the part of what Donovan thinks a Dom should.

From here on it's smooth sailing for the couple. It's no miscommunication, and they clearly speak about what they both want and feel for each other. I didn't think it was BDSM. It's basically sex but rougher than what some would want. I think that aspect could be dismissed from the tags and it's just a contemporary story.

I don't think I know Seth that well as a character as Donovan. We have multiple interactions with Donovan at his job and with his friend, and in his head alot. I kinda labelled Seth as coming off mysterious because outside of what he says about his family and friends we only see him.

This is a pretty straight forward sugary sweet mess. The end features cast from upcoming books I'm sure. We'll see more of these guys I'm sure. If you are in the mood for a low angst, fluffy book then this is right for you!

~☆~Doni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

If you like stories that are high on sweetness and low on angst with an extra dose of naughty, *Override* is the book for you. I am a fluffaholic; I don't need angst to be happy (just the opposite, in fact). I adored the first two-third of this book, but I got a little restless toward the end.

Donavan craves to submit, but at 6 foot something and over 200 pounds, he doesn't feel like a sub. Then he meets a man at Pride who throws his world out of alignment. Seth is much smaller than Donavan, but he's all Dom. He likes to take charge and be in control, and Donavan melts at Seth's touch.

***Override* is a VERY sexy book, but it's more rough sex than BDSM.** There is a flogging scene and some fun with toys, but nothing about the MCs screamed Dom/sub to me. My favorite steamy scene happened in a BDSM club where Donavan and Seth role play, and it's Seth who submits. That kind of power flipping really works for me.

Donavan's POV filters the majority of the story (we get a few scenes from Seth's perspective), and he's a well-rounded character. Donovan is seven years younger than Seth and works at a factory. He doesn't have a college degree, nor does he make a lot of money.

Seth, on the other hand, is all white collar. He's a doctor who drives a fancy car and spends more on one meal than Seth makes in a day. **Donovan feels insecure at times, wondering what Seth sees in him, but Seth makes it very clear that Donovan is a gift he wants to keep.**

Seth is a nice guy, but I didn't fully get him as a person. He's an Ob/Gyn, yet he never talks about his job, never seems to be on call. We get a good sense of what Donovan does for work (we even see him interact with his douche of a boss), but Seth feels like he's high on a pedestal somewhere.

I liked Donovan's best friend Cain, who's hilarious and far too interested in Donovan's sex life for a straight boy. The last couple chapters played up a few secondary characters, including Cain and Seth's cousin Tristan, as potential MCs in the series (an excerpt for book 2 is included, and it seems darker and angrier than this story).

The ending is a totes feel-good HEA. I would have preferred more tension or a conflict of some kind, but I'm not going to complain too much. The sexy times were smoldering, and I'm a fan of SJD Peterson's writing style.

Definitely recommended for fans of BDSM-lite who prefer a less intense read.

Debra says

Review originally posted at Sinfully.

3.5 stars

Donovan may seem dominant at first look, a factory worker and 6 foot plus of pure muscle, but he has the heart of a submissive. Seth, on the other hand, is his opposite in many ways, older, smaller, highly educated and thrilled at the thought of being able to dominate such a big and powerful man. When they meet at Pride, Seth notices Donovan watching the submissive during a demonstration and offers to give Seth the chance to submit. From that moment on, the two are drawn to each other and quickly find themselves in a relationship where Donovan has the freedom to explore everything he's dreamed of and Seth is willing to give him any experience he wants.

I have to say this novel turned out to be different than I anticipated, but I enjoyed it nonetheless. I really liked how flexible Seth and Donovan were with the BDSM aspect of their relationship, how they wove it in naturally to meet both their needs without it taking over all aspects of their time together. Seth is more concerned with Donovan feeling comfortable and being happy and isn't interested in keeping up his image at the club, not that he's going to let Donovan go unpunished though. These two men are sexy as anything together and they certainly do like to mix things up and keep it interesting.

The BDSM is on the light side with some bondage and flogging, but there is a more playful side to it that is all down to the personalities of the two men. Seth is not a strict, bad-ass Dom (their hot role-playing scene is a great example) though he has his moments and certainly knows how to get the best out of Donovan.

Donavan is just learning what he likes and is a willing student. The two have good communication, a lot of chemistry and the sex gets down and dirty but their relationship is very much on the sweeter side of things.

I had only one real issue with the story. As I was reading I kept waiting for some bit of conflict or a challenge to come up between them, but the relationship went very smoothly and was almost too easy. There were no bumps in the road in Donavan learning to submit or in them falling in love or into each other's lives. Other than a bit of insecurity on Donavan's part relating to Seth's education and wealth, there isn't anything the men have to overcome. I'm not saying that's a bad thing, I'm just saying it was unexpected on my part given the nature of Donavan's inexperience and the way they jumped right into things.

Aside from that, SJD Peterson's writing flows well and the story contained some humor courtesy of Donavan's best friend Cain who, for a straight man, is a bit too interested in Donavan's love life. His budding friendship with Seth's cousin Tristan was entertaining and perhaps fodder for a future story. There is also a brief introduction to the two men who will be the subject of the next story, which seems like it will have a more serious tone.

The strength of Override is definitely the strong and steady connection between Seth and Donavan and their growing romance. Anyone who likes an angst-free love story with a little bit of kink will enjoy this and I'll be looking forward to the next one.

Tina says

First book of a new series.

If you like BDSM books soft and sweet, you'll be loving this one.

Karen says

3.5 stars rounded up to 4 because you guessed it still no 1/2 stars here on GR maybe it wasn't a 4 star read for me but it was definitely closer to 4 than 3.

What I was expecting and what I got...not the same thing. Interestingly enough the first line of the blurb for this book is "Don't judge a book by it's cover..." can I just say "How totally appropriate this is." because based on the title and the cover I was expecting something a little darker, edgier, grittier with maybe a little more angst...not what I got. Now am I bothered by this...not really because I still got to read a really good story one that I totally enjoyed.

So now you know what I was expecting let me tell you about what I got. I got a story about two men looking for what most of us look for at some point in our lives...someone we can connect too, feel complete with...you guessed it 'the L word'. Donavan is a big guy. He's tall and hours in the gym and working in a factory have given him a pretty impressive set of muscles...he's totally a dominant...not...and that's his

problem people look at him and assume he's a take charge sort of guy. At least that's what most people assume, not so much with Seth.

Seth is older, smaller and more than willing to take charge. He knows what he wants and he usually gets it. One look at Donovan and Seth wants...wants so many things that he thought were beyond even him. Things that he'd buried his hope for long ago, but Donovan's re-ignited that hope and Seth is sure that what he and Donovan could have together would complete them both if he can just make Donovan see himself the way Seth does.

I have to admit stories like this can be so hit or miss for me and as much as I like this author initially I was leery about how this would go. Somewhere around 40% I was pretty sure I needed more story with my sex so for me the first part of the book was maybe 3 stars at best but I was determined to have faith and as I kept reading I found my story. It wasn't the one I was expecting but it turned out to be one that I enjoyed none the less. I realized that I was really invested in these two men. I was totally enjoying them together. There were no huge stumbling blocks, over the top misunderstandings or long drawn out angst-fest. Instead what I found was a sweet story about two men exploring a mutual attraction and discovering a bond that was strong enough to build a life together on. There was still lots of sex and while it was definitely on the rough side at times there was always an underlying sweetness to it because it went from sex with caring to sex with love.

One of the things that drew me in with this story was that the emotional growth wasn't forced and didn't feel like it was being shoved at me. Seth and Donovan's feelings for each other were just there, they evolved as a natural part of the story as the relationship progressed. What started out as a mutual attraction and a bit of insta-lust progressed to mutual caring and finally to love. In some ways it was a bit on the fast side but it felt right and with these two men it worked. Mostly because it was more on Seth's side and Seth's nature was such that he wasn't a procrastinator he was the type of man who knew what he wanted when he saw it and went after it. While Donovan took a little more time to think things over. He wasn't necessarily more hesitant to commit to the relationship, but he was slower to admit to how he truly felt.

'Override' is the first book in SJD Peterson's new series 'The Underground Club' and was an unexpectedly low angst, sweet and not the sugary shoot-me-now kind of sweet but a heartwarming and enjoyable kind that also introduces us to some wonderful secondary characters from Donovan and Seth's awesome parents to the MCs that will be in book #2 which I am definitely looking forward to along with holding onto the hope that some of the the other characters from this first book will appear in later stories because like Donovan I really want to know what's going on between Cain, Donovan's best friend and Seth's cousin, Tristan. There's definitely more than meets the eye happening there and Seth's twin brothers, Samuel and Christopher also offer some interesting potential.

So maybe 'Override' wasn't quite the story that I was expecting but it was definitely a story that I enjoyed and made this a series that I look forward to continuing.

A copy of 'Override' was graciously provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Jaime says

A super sweet book with a HEA and great start to new series

This is the story of a man, Donovan Gregory, who wants to explore his submissive side. He is used to always being considered the large and in charge man due to his height and muscles - but what he really wants is to be on his knees for a man who can Master him.

Seth Manning, he is a Dominant with a capital D - and just because he is under 6 ft tall and isn't full of muscles, he knows how to bring even the biggest man under control. When he sees Donovan watching a BDSM display at Pride he knows that the man he is admiring is something special and he wants nothing more than to Dominate him.

Donovan is drawn to Seth, yet he thinks he isn't good enough for him and when they go out on their first date, sparks ignite quickly between the two and passion is high..

“You’re not quite sure yet how to take me, are you?” Seth remarked.

“That’s the understatement of the year.”

...

“So when you’re onstage or wherever you are tying up men, what do you like to be called?”

“Sir, and if the boy belongs to me, then I prefer Master. I have no issues with leather daddies, but I’m not really into leather unless it’s at the end of my flogger or whip. I prefer the term Dom.”

“As in Dominant?”

“Very much so. Have you ever had a dominant lover, Donovan?”

“No.”

“Would you like one?” The way Seth asked the question, his voice low and husky, sent a shiver racing down Donovan’s spine. He was held captive by those brown eyes again, his body thrumming with a dark desire Seth was pulling from deep within him. “Yes,” he admitted. Seth’s hand landed on Donovan’s leg again, those long fingers teasing his inner thigh, moving upward. His eyes fluttered closed, and a low moan escaped him when Seth ran his palm over Donovan’s hard cock. Seth leaned in closer. “Let me take you home ,” he whispered against Donovan’s ear, sending another shudder ripping through him. Donovan didn’t even hesitate with his response. “You can take me anywhere you wish.”

From that moment on, Donovan's fantasy of submitting becomes very much reality and these two men fall into a quick and easy relationship. There is little angst in this story, everything just sorta works out for the two - no real conflict, no real drama - just two out and proud gay men exploring their sexuality and enjoying each other while falling in love.

The BDSM elements of the story were not what took up the full story, yes they were there, yes Donovan called Seth Sir - but that was just one facet of their relationship, and while Donovan wish to explore may be what brought the two together, they end up staying together because they fall in love.

Overall, a solid 4 stars - low angst - Romantic BDSM Story with a HEA and a look into our next characters - can't wait for book 2!

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Reviewed by Jaime from Alpha Book Club

Vallie says

Yowza!

Join this sweet bdsm-inspired pornganza and you WILL NOT be disappointed!

I am picky with BDSM these days. I used to go through the GR lists and read everything above 2 stars. Having had my fair share of crapctacular pseudo BDSM wannabe novels, some super hardcore scene after scene ones, and whatever is in the middle, I am happy to say this one was a win!

Hot sex with over-abundance of dirty-talk –although I’m not a fan of the Dom calling his sub “boy” - was just what the doctor ordered. I liked the juxtaposition of Seth as a Dom with Donovan being this massive beast of a man who wanted to submit and could not find a Dom worth his salt to look beyond the physical. They were scorching hot together and Donovan being so insecure and super apologetic for every single freaking thing was adorable.

If you’re looking for the kink master, this isn’t it. Not exactly BDSM wannabe, because the D/S tone in Seth and Donovan’s relationship was just right IMO this was a story about two men meeting their sexual match in every way and discovering a loving life partner alongside that as well. **This was all no drama-rama, no fights, not silly miscommunications, and very BDSM-lite.**

Like Gigi said in her review , the story ends at 89-90% and the last part of the book is spent introducing the characters who will star in the sequel so be prepared. This is a smooth, uninterrupted ride in all the ways. No waves –just a steady relationship being sexually explored over and over and over again. Win win!

Pick this up, it is worth a read!

Recommend!

ARC provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review. See this review on Gay Book Reviews.

Josy says

~3.5 stars~

I finished this book 10 days ago and it's probably not a good sign that I can't remember much now that I write my review. Or maybe it's just my dysfunctional memory that is acting up here and causes me to rely on my notes.

I was really excited to read this book and I enjoyed it while reading but I like my books grittier and with more tension than this one. But this is purely personal taste so if you like your stories sweet and without much angst than this one might be the perfect book for you. For me, it was more rough sex than BDSM and there is only one scene I remember clearly. Both MCs visit a BDSM club and while role playing they also switch their Dom / sub roles.

Donavan is a tall, well-built guy who wants to explore his submissive side despite thinking that because of his size it's not possible for him until he meets Seth, a well-known Dom, who offers to do a bonding scene with him during a Pride event. The connection between them is instantaneous and they quickly develop deeper feelings for each other but it didn't feel too insta-lovey to me. Maybe because Donovan is hesitant to move forward too fast despite his feelings.

Overall, this was a sweet, well-written story with lots of communication, patience, good sexy times, and heartwarming emotions.

Tanu Gill says

Ugh. This is a case of amazing blurb, lacklustre execution.

When I read the blurb, I was quite excited to read a BDSM-themed romance. But the story was more on the BDSM side and less on the romance side. The start of the book is purely BDSM-heavy, so much so that I started second-guessing my choice of book. And then there is no romance or emotional development. Seth and Donovan have sex regularly and feel affected by how much their partner has taken over their thoughts and fathom themselves in love!

As I always mention in my reviews, I always look for some serious and detailed romance development. Insta-love has to be written pretty believably for me to approve of it. But this one was just impossible! There were many sweet moments, but I couldn't make sense of how fast they were jumping ahead, from being attracted from first sight to falling head over heels, all in the space of two-three dates! And I couldn't get a proper read on both the MCs' characterisations. And the major issue was Donovan's blind trust in Seth right from the beginning. I wouldn't trust anyone with my nightmares or fears after two dates!

J *deep in the heart of Texas* says

3.5 Stars!

This one just okay for me.

I'd call it BDSM-lite. Nothing my vanilla heart couldn't handle.

I found some of the dialogue to be on the cheesy side.

I also found it to be pretty insta-lust and insta-love. Both of which kept me from really loving this one. Or even liking it a lot.

The writing was pretty good. And I will say the sex was hot. But I'm not so sure I'll continue on with this series.

Makhda says

3.5 stars

Fluffy BDSM book. Although I do like it more if it's lil bit 'rough'. But I still liked this one. It was so sweet and nice. Thank god, it's not making me nauseous. I'm more interested with Cain and Tristan's story. Unfortunately the next book is going to be another MC's.
