



Loving James

John H. Ames

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Surviving a normal high school is hard enough. Surviving Elite High? Close to impossible! Not until you learn the difference between love and obsession...

Sixteen year old James Gordon has it all. He's rich, studious, and bears quite a strong resemblance to Justin Bieber. So, what's stopping him from being a normal kid in high school? The deadly jocks. They torment anyone who's gay or possibly closeted, even though Nick Wild Hawk, star of the football team and the love of his life, John, came out to the whole school in previous years and made being gay at Elite High just another walk of life.

However, even though the jocks have bullied James nonstop and made his life a living hell, he can't help but fantasize about the king of the jocks, Nathan Parker. Nathan is rugged, straight and the most popular guy in school. When fate intercepts and places James and Nathan under the same roof, James' torture really begins. And yet, through it all, James hopes that that his steadfast love for Nathan will change the jock into a lover rather than an abuser. Unless a certain hot, loyal, guy in the background can find a way to show James he is really, truly loved, and has been for a long time. Before it's too late...

Surviving Elite High: Loving James is the third part of the Surviving Elite High Saga which features one the most famous and loved characters in the series, Jacob Ashmore.

Loving James Details

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From Reader Review Loving James for online ebook

Thomaidha Papa says

Review Written for MM Good Book Reviews

<http://mmgoodbookreviews.wordpress.com/>

Well damn, I really thought this one would be Jacob's story, but it appears to be James' featuring Jacob toward the end. If you've read SHE: Senior Year then you will remember John's tutee James. James has idolized John and even more Nick, who is his number one goal. Well not Nick himself since he's taken, but someone like him; a jock, rugged and straight.

Unfortunately in his young and obsessed mind he makes the mistake of believing that special someone could be Nathan; Nathan who bullies and terrorizes him. In James' mind Nathan could change for their love like Nick changed for John.

Yes, it is pretty obvious and pretty fast that James is one delusional kid and this story is beyond disconcerting on that account. James is so blind in his delusions that he almost puts himself in a very, very dangerous situation. With his father marrying Nathan's mother, and the two boys living in the same house, James finds that the bullying he had to suffer at school gets tenfold worse in his own home, his own sanctuary. And with Nathan's bipolar behavior James really doesn't see the monster that is right in front of him.

Jacob on the other hand has dropped college to be a car/bike mechanic in James' dad's shop. And he has a silent crush on James never actually admit to it. That stroke me as odd since the Jacob we met in SHE was pretty forward when it came to claiming what he wanted. Anyway he silently provides help and companionship for James even if the later couldn't really see straight and realize what's good for him.

The story gets pretty brutal from a point on. That's not what bothered me, but the fact that the plot leapt from one scene to another in a very quick pace. Just like the young teen that leapt from emotion to emotion, love to love in the blink of an eye. The fact that it was so much in the same tone as John & Nick's story didn't help. In some places you really could confuse James with John.

However the story was shocking and very intriguing, and the emotions behind it even if a bit overly dramatic, still very strong. I personally would have loved more Jacob/James time, but never the less I had fun reading how wonderfully Jacob grew and matured. A wonderful addition for all the fans of SHE.

Thommie.

Jeliee Maye says

Mixed feelings at the start... i want to stop reading at the same time i can't put my phone down... i was super shocked.. i mean halfway through the main event i was like "what??!!!" and "Noooo!!!" and "plleeeasee!!!".. i was almost to the point of crying.. hehe.. but James and Jacob's story is very sweet.. i even thought that Jacob would confess to James about what he was like back then in high school and well James will accept him unconditionally.. hehe.. all in all the story is really good.. i just wish that there were more sweet moments

between Jacob and James.. hehehehehe.. XD

Ryan Hastings says

AMAZING! I LOVED IT! JACOB AND JAMES ARE THE BOMB! THIS NEEDS A SEQUEL.

Martijn Hartman-maatman says

Bad just bad. Its more a bad porn story than anything else. I guess I will not read this author again soon.

Crissy Morris says

2 stars

Review originally written for JOyfully Jay

After James Gordon met John Ames and Nick Hawking, he couldn't help but have hope that his own geek/jock love story was out there somewhere. James just has to find the right jock. Enter Nathan Parker. Nathan is everything James has ever dreamed of – captain of the basketball team, sexy, domineering. He's also one of James's tormentors and the biggest bully in school. But James is determined to find a way change Nathan, determined to turn Nathan into his jock. But things aren't always that easy.

When James's father announces that he is getting remarried, James is taken by surprise and more than a little upset. His mother has only been gone for five years and he's not ready to move on. To find out that his father is marrying Nathan's mother comes as a complete shock. And once they are actually married, things just go from bad to worse. The first time Nathan forced James to give him a blowjob, James wasn't sure what was going on. The forceful actions were not what he expected, but he had wanted Nathan for so long that he was afraid to complain. Even as Nathan's actions continue to grow more violent, James is convinced that Nathan is in love with him, but just doesn't know how to express that love. So James decides to make the first move, the biggest move. But one unforgivable moment changes James's mind about his future with Nathan.

Jacob Ashmore, one of James's dad's employees, is a few years older than James, but he's always been a good friend to James, always had time to spend with him and listen to his problems. After Nathan's betrayal, James begins to see Jacob in a new light and realizes he is the love that James has always longed for. But when old tormentors threaten to ruin James before he has a chance to voice his feelings to Jacob, will love be enough to save James when his innocence and his life are threatened?

Surviving Elite High: Loving James is the third installment in John H. Ames' *Surviving Elite High* series, and definitely my least favorite of the series. There are just too many problems for me to really like this book, and I tried. I can't say I loved the other two in the series, but they were better than this one in so many ways.

First, I have a problem with some of the facts stated in the book. I feel like there should have been more research into certain aspects of before stating them as fact. And if they weren't meant to sound the way they sounded, they should have been worded differently. For example:

“...but really there’s no way for a guy to get raped, so it couldn’t be that.”

Without giving too much of the story away, some things happen in the story that may presumably cancel out this statement, but it’s never corrected. This is a statement that stayed with me while reading the entire book. The inaccuracy of this one sentence threw me for a loop. For this to be included in a young adult book, in which presumably young gay men will read it and possibly be influenced by it, is misleading and sad.

Another example of misinformation given in this book, and on a less offensive note, is the explanation of bondage.

“Bondage? What’s that?”

Jacob sighed and quickly looked around. There was an awkward look on his face that he could not erase. “Well, I don’t know how to explain it to you in the PG-13 version, but here it goes. It’s a form of sex that involves a lot of whips, ropes, and other sexual toys. Usually, one is the dominant person and the other is the submissive person. The dominant does anything to his partner in order to fulfill their sexual desires....”

I would like to note here that my problem is not with the subject of bondage, but the definition. I’ve done some research on this subject in the past so to understand better some of the books I read. And there is a difference between just bondage – which is simply the act of restraint – and bondage with discipline. A D/s relationship is not so easily explained as a just bondage. I feel that for young adult readers to happen upon this misinformed explanation in a book is a failure to young readers who may not know better.

The violence in this book is another issue for me. Don’t get me wrong, I’m not against violence in books. I simply feel that it was over the top in this book. The forceful treatment of James by someone that he thought he loved was shocking. I still can’t understand why he was so enamored with someone who physically abused and violated him. It wasn’t like they had any sort of relationship prior to the acts that put him in some sort of “battered boyfriends” category. I would also like to point out that the aggressor’s actions being blamed on his childhood molestation is clichéd and was also used as the excuse for the antagonist in the previous book. So it all just felt out of place, repetitive, and unoriginal.

Okay, so off of those soapboxes for now. On the subject of characters, I couldn’t find myself connecting with James. I get that he’s a confused sixteen year old who only wants to be accepted. I’m not saying that he wasn’t an okay character in theory, I just think he’s poorly characterized. He was stuck on the history of John and Nick (from the previous two books). He was almost obsessed with wanting to be just like John instead of finding his own voice. It made him weak character-wise.

Jacob is the one highlight in this story for me, and he will remain my favorite character in this series. Whereas, this is James’s story, and the story is written in James’s POV, Jacob still shines like the diamond in the rough he is. He is still caring, patient, and understanding. The best friend. The protector. The most forgiving. Jacob is the most stable, believable character of all of the characters in the entire series.

Finally, the relationship between James and Jacob. I like this pairing if only because Jacob finally gets a love in his life that wants him as well. But the lack of relationship building in the story is disappointing. James and Jacob don’t really interact much throughout the course of the book. I would have really liked to see them grow as a couple, actually see the reason they might have for falling in love. Maybe it could’ve helped me like James more. I don’t know. But the way it played out just fell flat and was disappointing.

In the end, the only saving grace for this book would be Jacob, but he was not enough to make me like the story. The facts stated are offensive, confusing, and incorrect. I feel that there should have been more

research into subjects unknown. I'm not sure if the author plans to add to this series, but it is not a series that I plan on continuing to read. I cannot recommend this book.

Betryal says

This one was really good although I was spoiled by the second one before this and hoped it would be longer than it was. It starts out good and then turns to harrowing and with an ending even I didn't expect to see coming. I'm really hoping for another of these and curious who will be featured in it. I'd get a kick out of seeing one of the bad boys being it.

Great write, great story and one heck of an interesting series.

Mike Oaks says

Hmm. What to make of this one

The first two books in this series threw everything (even the kitchen sink) at Nick and John. We were introduced to James in book 2. He's the focus in this book. James has bad things happen to him until he sees the light. 2.0 for being generous With my rating. - just not my idea of a well executed story.

Latinachick says

Ok this book took me a day to read. Only because it was an amazing book. I loved how Jacob found someone to love, I didn't like him feeling lonely while John and nick had each other. Even though there's an age different between them, I liked how James dad agree to let them date. I hate Nathan he is the BIGGEST DICK, if he were real i would have kicked his ass. I happy for James coming to realize that Nathan is nothing and that he should move on. I LOVEEED how we get to see John and nick and how they r doing. U R THE BEST AUTHOR ON THE PLANET XD !!!!

V says

I agree with Dallison's review. <http://www.goodreads.com/review/show/...>

Perhaps age and immaturity have something to do with it? I'm not very familiar with this issues, so maybe I'm wrong.

Anyhow, this is another wonderful story from this author.

Jeff Erno says

Although I'm a huge fan of JH Ames and have loved the first two books of his Surviving Elite High series, this third installment did not deliver the way the first two books did. For one thing, it was so short, only 67 pages. But more importantly, I wasn't able to identify with James the way I did with John, the main character from the first two books.

It wasn't that I disliked James, but I seriously didn't understand his infatuation with Nathan. I wanted to rip Nathan right from the pages of the book and strangle him with my bare hands. James was so down on himself that he allowed Nathan, his step brother, to badly abuse him.

Redemption didn't come until the end, when James finally woke up to the fact that Nathan would never be the kind of guy who'd love James the way he deserved to be loved. I'm happy about the outcome, and glad that James ultimately found his HEA, though I wished he'd have seen the light much sooner. I guess I felt like I didn't quite get my fix of romance. It was a bit too-little-too-late for my taste.

With that being said, I still liked the book and am still a huge fan of the author. And one other thing...since I read this book right on the heels of book two, there was no way I could rate these two stories equally. In my opinion, book two was outstanding while book three was good.

Trisha Harrington says

This was such a sweet book. I loved James and Jacob. Nathan was... I actually did feel sorry for him. It was kind of sad, my thoughts on him are all over the place at the moment. I hated the other boys though. Great book!

Alex Akira says

Written with all the exuberant and dramatic emotional makeup of its young adult audience, the third installment to the Surviving Elite High series found me immersed in the life of James Gordon, the young tutee of John Ames, the lead character in the previous books.

Sixteen-year-old James is a bundle of anxious energy. Upset that his father is getting remarried—it's far too soon, in his opinion, but who asked him?—he's also the target of the worst bully in his school, and he despairs of ever finding a boyfriend. His single bright spot is the inspiration he finds in the loving relationship between his tutor, John, and football jock, Nick Wild Hawk. How did John do it? How did he find a cool, blistering-hot jock to come out for him?

Transforming his upset into dogged determination, James decides that he will follow John's example; he, too, will find a jock to love him. His newfound focus takes a blow when he learns that he is expected to have a meet and greet dinner with, not only his father's intended bride, but her teenaged son as well. Crushed at his dad's abrupt dismissal of his feelings, James heads off to school, where a single kind word from his nemesis, basketball team captain, Nathan Parker, has him certain that Nathan is the jock for him... He's just got to win him over, right?

What follows is a tumble of surprising and catastrophic events, fraught with the turbulent emotion of a hormone-ridden teen, as in trying to win his jock, James learns a slew of lessons...under the worst possible circumstances.

As with the previous book, once I adjusted to the quick-change emotional makeup that is at the heart of teen angst, I enjoyed this dashing dip into the life of young James as he struggles to find a way out of the fire he has unwittingly jumped into. Kudos to author John Ames for penning this arresting "don't let this happen to you," morality tale. As I sank into the fallen domino flow of the story, my adult self was prone to murmurs of "Oh, no, no...No! Oh God, was I ever this dumb?" A slideshow of the dubious mishaps of my own teen years provided a resounding, "Uh, ye-ah..." and I eagerly turned another page, hoping that James would find his way out, as I have.

Thank you, John Ames, for allowing me to romance upon "the folly of youth." In a word, "Engaging."

Scarlett says

[Content has spoilers]

This story was pretty much speedy to me but it never lacked with the values and difference between searching for love and obsession.

It hurts so much that about the conflict though, since rape happens a lot and was instigated by the victims of the same means. It's really shocking but not unbelievable.

Now, I can't wait for Rick's story. (I assume the next book would be about our Rick, and it's going to be emotional ok, so) Anyways, I love this series so much!

Dallison says

The abuse that James took from Nathan was hard for me to read. I was really upset with him that he mistook that horrible treatment for love. I did not understand why he felt that way. I wished the author had made this book longer.

Raisa says

Mm where do I start? I barely gave this book 3 stars.. And just because of jacob.. I love him but I didn't liked James that much.. I thought this was going to be a love story but it was too rushed too much drama, the romance between jacob and james was so fast paced... And all the abuse he suffered from nathan, it was hard to read. I didn't liked reading the first chapters. Jamesv"love" for nathan was so twisted and ugly.. And james was really immature and superficial. All he cared was his dreamed popular and handsome jock nick look a like...

I am sorry but i couldnt feel the connection in this book.
