



Face the Music

K.M. Neuhold

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Lincoln

I thought there was only one thing I needed to make me happy. I was so sure becoming a rock star would heal the dark corners inside me. But every time I walk onto the stage, with a roaring crowd screaming my name, all I can think about is the boy I left behind. All I want to do is rewind and make a different choice.

Jace

I thought I hated Lincoln when he ghosted me ten years ago and destroyed my heart. I thought I hated him when he wrote a chart-topping hit about our idyllic young love. But I've never hated him as much as I do right now, standing in front of me like he has every right to be in my world again. He's not the rock god I thought he was...he's still that same lost boy I used to love. Can I ever trust him with my heart again?

***Face the Music is the first book in the Replay series. Each book in the series will focus on a different band member getting a second chance at love. Each book can be read as a stand-alone. This book contains descriptions of self-harm, suicidal thoughts, and sexy times.

Face the Music Details

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From Reader Review Face the Music for online ebook

Dani Hodge says

#Replay #FaceTheMusic #DownwardSpiral #LincandJace

Another AMAZING book by Author K.M. Neuhold!! Emotional, and full of sensitive subjects; Face the Music may not be for all readers, but I found it to be an amazing start to what looks to be an amazing new series! Jace and Lincoln are such deep character; I couldn't help but root for their HEA! This was a book that had me flipping the pages well into the night!

If you are a fan of K.M. Neuhold or are reading her books for the first time, I can't recommend this story enough! I can't wait for the second book to come out! Hopefully we won't have to wait long!

Annika says

Audiobook review

In essence, I absolutely loved and adored this story. I'm always partial for a scarred man, second chance stories and when combining that with a famous musician, I'm over the moon.

This book opens up with present day Lincoln, rock star extraordinaire in the band Downward Spiral. An apt name if there ever was one as all of its members are spiralling fast out of control in one way or another. Lincoln is a bit worse for wear, drunk and passing out in the cold and almost freezing to death. He basically couldn't care less. He's numb, and the only way he feels anything is by self-harming, cutting. The only thing in his mind is remembering Jace. The love of his life. The boy he walked away from, broke, ten years earlier when his music career really took off.

After another close call with Linc's life, Archer the band manager, cancels the upcoming tour, orders all the band members to a mandatory break to get their heads back together. And hopefully by the end of the break, there will still be a band left to save. Linc decides to go back to the one place in the world where he was truly happy, the place where he met and fell in love with Jace. What he doesn't count on is standing face to face with Jace once more. A freshly dumped Jace who doesn't want anything to do with him anymore.

Face the Music is a second chance story. It's told from a dual POV in more ways than one. We get both Linc's and Jace's perspectives, but we also get the past interwoven with the present. So we are there watching Linc and Jace fall in love, the first kiss, we feel the sweetness, the giddiness and hope for the future. But we are also there for the hard parts, Linc leaving and Jace realising that the love of his life has left him. We are there for the pain as well as the happiness before it. We can relate to them both, understand the motives that drove them. We understand the heartbreak that are still present ten years later. We know the love that lurks underneath the surface, ready to bloom once more.

This book drew me in from the start and I couldn't put it down but listened to the whole thing in one go. I just needed to know how Linc and Jace finally got back together. Needed to see the journey, the forgiveness and healing. I'm also partial to characters with any kind of mental health issue, so Linc ticked a lot of my

boxes. And while I didn't always agree with his actions, I could understand why.

Kenneth Obi's narration of this book is a bit of an oddity for me. He has different voices when narrating the different characters - which is always a huge plus for me. It makes it so much easier to follow along with the story. He also adds in feelings to his words, emotions and is not simply reading the words in front of him. Despite all that, he *still* manages to sound bored though it all. It's a bit of a mystery to me to be frank. On the other hand, that would fit when he narrated the first part of the story from Lincoln's POV. It fits with his depressed, moody and "who cares" attitude. But it doesn't fit with the rest of the book, when the feel of it is happy. I did feel like even during the happy moments, there was still a wall between the characters and the listener, we weren't quite there.

Face the Music was a beautiful second chance story. I loved everything about it, the plot, the characters and the amazing love that Linc and Jace shared. The narration was a bit off for me, which might be just me, so you should definitely have a listen to the sample to decide if this audio is worth trying. If not, you need to pick up the book, because this is a story you shouldn't miss.

Story: 5 stars

Narration: 3,5 stars

A copy of this book was generously provided by the author in exchange for an honest review

Coco.V says

? FREE on Amazon today (11/22/2018)!?

Blurb:

Lincoln

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Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

4.5 stars

This is the first time I've read K.M. Neuhold and I was impressed by this author's ability to tell a story and the way one of the character's need for self harm was woven into the plot. This was not an easy romance, the two main characters had a history from childhood friends to teens with big plans together when their lives were changed dramatically by a seemingly selfless act that left them both spiraling and trying to forget one another in a variety of ways. I enjoyed this story a lot, it was well written, the characters were complex, but through it all these two men reclaimed the love they once had only this time it was stronger and lasting.

Lincoln and Jace spent summers together while vacationing in Wisconsin with their parents at their respective lake houses. As teenagers their attraction led to experimentation, declarations of love, sex, and promises of more as they planned to attend college and be together. Then Lincoln's band is offered a recording contract and their worlds are split apart until ten years later when they find themselves back where it all began.

This story is told in two parts one from their growing up years and one in present time and although I'm not a huge fan of flashbacks, I appreciated the insight into their young relationship. There is no doubt these two had a connection and it was strong as they were friends for many years before they became lovers so the hurt when ties were severed was deep. I loved watching them fall back in love which was pretty easy, but I appreciated that trusting again took a good, long time.

Lincoln's life as a member of Downward Spiral is well documented including the fact that during a self cutting episode he almost killed himself resulting in one of the bands biggest hits. I struggled with Lincoln's character only because it was hard to read about someone who on the outside appeared to have it all but on the inside was so confused and out of control. I applaud this author for making him go through the paces of getting help and watching him struggle with all that entails, but also realizing that in order to have the life he wants he has to do the work and get well.

My heart hurt for Jace who not only lost Lincoln years ago but recently his fiancée who left him claiming he was never fully committed to her and to be honest he wasn't. I loved that he worked hard to move on, that he accepted his bisexuality and that he made Lincoln work for his trust. I also was thrilled that he refused to make commitments with Lincoln until he got help and appreciated the fact that he realized it was more than something they could deal with on their own.

Watching their young love and their present love unfold was beautiful and each was special, but it was the many turning points that made this book unique. Lincoln finally admitting he needed outside help, Jace realizing that he wouldn't have a career he loved if not for Lincoln's selflessness, Lincoln's willingness to change his life to have Jace in it, and them both admitting that despite the years and other lovers their hearts have always been for each other made this a heartbreaking and wonderful romance.

Emotional and heart breaking yet filled with hope and love, I thoroughly enjoyed Face the Music.

Tracy~Bayou Book Junkie says

4 Stars

If you've read my reviews in the past, you'll know my favorite trope is definitely second chance romances

and Face The Music was an enjoyable one.

Lincoln abandoned Jace without even a goodbye ten years ago to pursue his dream of becoming a rockstar, and while he's had tremendous success, he is miserable without the love of his life by his side. After a night of heavy drinking nearly kills him, he decides to get away and heads to a summer cabin in the woods of Wisconsin, where he spent many summers as a teen befriendng and eventually falling in love with Jace. Once Linc gets there, he finds the fates have brought him and Jace back to the cabins at the same time, but can he make things right and win Jace back?

My heart absolutely broke for Linc. His sadness and despair crushed me and I just wanted to hug him. Although I definitely understood Jace's anger at Linc and his apprehension at forgiving him and possibly entering into a relationship with him again, it didn't stop me from wanting to yell at him to forgive Linc already! My feelings were torn in that respect, but I absolutely adored these two men and together, they fit and the love they felt for one another shone through on each and every page. They had great chemistry and were sizzling hot together.

The story was interesting and filled with plenty of emotion. It held my attention and kept me turning the pages to see how it would all work out. I loved how the author handled Linc's issues of depression and self-harm. Just because you get the guy doesn't mean all your troubles go away and I was really happy that this part of the story was realistic.

Truthfully, my only complaint, was the author's use of flashbacks. They were spread throughout the story and were, frankly, very disruptive. Still, this was an enjoyable read, with a perfect and swoon-worthy ending and I'm looking forward to the next installment in the series. Very recommendable!

copy provided by author/publisher for my reading pleasure, a review was not a requirement

Line says

Freebie at the zon.com right now: <https://smile.amazon.com/Face-Music-R...>

Trio says

did not work for me

Joyfully Jay says

A Joyfully Jay review.

4.5 stars

Face the Music explores some fairly dark themes, which include self-harm and suicide, so please be forewarned that if this type of story line could be triggering for you it is best you go into this novel with

advanced warning. The scenes of cutting are fairly graphic, never done to titillate or shock, but rather to expose the depth of Linc's illness and depression. I was so impressed with the way in which Neuhold addressed Linc's mental health. The story allowed for the reality of what being bipolar would mean for both Linc and Jace and how it would never go away, but be something both men would have to live with if they were to be together.

Told in first person with alternating points of view and flashbacks interspersed, this was a rich and emotional story of first love, first heartbreak, and second chances. The flashbacks were interwoven into the story in such a way as to never break the flow, the transitions being rather seamless and giving the reader a lovely glimpse into how the two boys fell in love and the way in which their relationship matured over the summers spent together. It also gave us a real window into the hell Linc's home life was and how it shaped the man he became. These two men had to work for their happy ever after and were always mindful of the pitfalls ahead and for that reason alone, I think this novel really stands out as a beautiful story of healing and forgiveness.

Read Sammy's review in its entirety here.

Gina Marie ~books are my drug of choice~ says

As I read this book I picked up the clues that indicate real life major depression recurrent with hypomania, a form of bipolar disorder. I was impressed with how well done the show don't tell was. This book allowed the reader to reach that idea without being beat over the head with it. The fact that a character points out he has bipolar he is not the disorder.

I can't wait to read the rest of the series. Each finds a second chance at love during the band's hiatus which starts due to happenings at the beginning of this book. The time changes are shown by the chapter name including side B, for the past and side A for the present. I really liked this because it kept the music theme going and was easier to notice and remember.

Bev says

Nice second chances story. Linc's bi-polar diagnosis is something I've become quite familiar with in recent years, and Jace was very understanding. I have to say though that I would've thought someone *should've* picked up on it a helluva lot sooner...other band members, band manager, whoever....there was obviously a suicide attempt waiting to happen. Still not keen on present tense stories...3.5 stars rounded up.

Qin says

A longish, rather boring nothingburger poorly dressed up as a second chance romance, only saved from the one star treatment by dint of its reasonably good literary values. For one thing, the embraced structure of the book, with each chapter alternating between shared memories of the two lads written from the POV of one of them and the similarly focussed rekindling of their relationship in the present time, does not achieve too well

its task of providing insight into the minds of Jace and Lincoln, for their, obviously skewed, perspectives on events and on each other remain desperately in need of complexity, variety (those lads are really too full of one another and, insofar as their memories are concerned, of what little happened in their bland lives) and genuine depth. This binary type of storytelling also leads straight to narrative discontinuity and fragmentation which, in my opinion, proves lethal to a novel where the angst is stated, or more precisely: overstated, through internal dialogue, rather than shown in minute detail (Lincoln's drunkard bully of a father ought to have been far more present in the boy's flashbacks for the cutting Lincoln falls back into to sound genuinely motivated) and goes on rather artificially for far too long because the writer had nothing better to wax about. Indeed the romance sounds tepid and staged from page one; the near constant recourse to age-worn tropes empties it of the strength it ought to cultivate. To compile a list of even the most egregiously outrageous of those elements would be too time consuming, so I shall only take here as evidence the following instances, as, taken together within the compass of a mere hundred pages, they robbed me of my reading pleasure: the unrealistic synchronicity of the termination of Jace's heterosexual relationship with the peak of Lincoln's flirt with death by alcohol and lack of concern for his well-being, both of which have the lads come back within a few hours of each other at the two neighbouring cabins in which their puppy love took place; the little we get to see of the dealings between Lincoln and his team mates, which, instead of providing background for the lead singer's depression while giving the reader dynamic snapshots of these boys, betrays without any shadow of a doubt that the author was solely concerned with laying down the roots of her planned sequels, seems to me to be painfully written; the use of Lincoln's cutting to mellow present-day Jace and have him less hostile to the one who got away without explanation has an unpleasantly hollow ring to it. Finally, Lincoln's bipolar troubles are not evoked with any understanding of this psychiatric disorder, nor does Jace, for a microbiologist fresh from his lab, demonstrate any sound grasp of it - actually, I never felt he talked, reasoned and acted as a doctor should, let alone a high-powered one. Mrs Neuhold belongs to the enormous class of writers who were not bothered to do any preliminary digging before creating whatever university-credentialled protagonist their plot required; too bad, for, by so doing, she shows her true colors. Ladies, if need be, please write your heroes as cabbage dealers or small town clerks instead of striving for prestigious trades the mannerisms and intellectual mindset of whose your own ignorance has no chance of ever getting right.

Tj says

At eighteen Lincoln made a difficult decision. He loved music and was offered a shot with a recording company. To do so, meant hurting his person, the one who always had his back. It meant hurting Jace.

Jace was college bound with dreams of being a doctor. If he went on the road with Lincoln and the band, college would never happen. In time, he would recent Linc. Lincoln wants Jace to have it all so he makes the decision for him. Lincoln flees in the middle of the night leaving Jace and his heart behind.

Fast forward ten years. Lincoln and Jace meet again. Both have succeeded in their careers but not so much in their personal lives. Jace's busted engagement is small potatoes compared to Lincoln's life. He struggles almost daily with an untreated mental illness.

Neuhold handles Lincoln's illness with a deft hand. She doesn't bog the reader down with so much detail that the book reads like a medical text. She also doesn't gloss it over so that Lincoln is suddenly made all better with a few kisses and rounds of sex with Jace.

Lincoln will always have issues. Life, meditations and coping skills will always be a balancing act. No

matter how much love Jace has to give, each day will require a fresh commitment from him. A small part of him will always worry and want to keep Lincoln safe from his personal demons.

I loved Lincoln, Jace and the bond they create. It took time, some maturity, love, pain, self sacrifice, and commitment.

Ky says

3.5 stars

"Face the Music" is the first book in a new series about the members of a rock band that somehow all get their happily ever after in the form of second chance romances during a much needed break to recharge and keep going.

In this book, it's Lincoln the one who gets his second chance with his childhood best friend, Jace, who was also his first boyfriend. There is a certain amount of struggle for them to get over past hurts and betrayals but it was necessary that they go through that first in order to make a new start together.

I appreciated very much the realistic way that Lincoln's mental health was dealt with. I won't tell you what the diagnosis was but if you have the slightest knowledge about it you will figure it out for yourselves pretty easily and pretty early on. There was no magic cure, even if there were no set backs and everything went smoothly from the start which I don't imagine happens in real life, and he had a long road ahead of him but the overall message was full of hope. Jace was amazing with his support and encouragement and exactly what Lincoln needed to turn his life around and start living again.

One of the things I liked the most about this story is how every book in the series seems to be taking place at the same time. I'm just speculating here based on what I read in this book but if I'm right I'm even more excited for the rest of the guys to get their stories! There is an endless opportunity for scenes to be told from different perspectives or to leave us wondering from one book to the next until we get the whole story behind a scene we already read about. It happened here a few times and one that pops up in my mind is a phone call where Benji picked up laughing. I hope we see that same phone call from Benji's POV and learn what had him in such a good mood. The same goes for Archer too with his secret smiles.

Important note: The warnings in the blurb weren't put there just for show, read them and take them into serious consideration before you open this book.

This review has been cross-posted on The Novel Approach Reviews.

**An ARC of this book was kindly provided to me by the publisher via The Novel Approach Reviews in exchange for an honest review. **

S says

Neither MC has any self-preservation. Both characters have things wrapped up in like 2 seconds. Oh I want to go to the cabin in Wisconsin, buy it for me, and three days later, he's there and owns it. Jace: OMG Lincoln is here, I hate him, I'm going to leave. Brother says, maybe you need closure. Oh hey, a split second later: you're right, I'll stay & start spending significant time with him. Boneheads, both of them.

Cadiva says

Loved this book a lot. It deals with a difficult subject to get right - mental illness - but does so without overplaying it or under emphasising the seriousness.

Lincoln and Jace were wonderful together in the flashbacks and it was easy to see why neither had been able to ever move on properly. I also loved the whole fated aspect which KM weaved into the narrative as it worked well for their relationship development ten years later

The book doesn't pull any punches when it deals with Lincoln's "black dog" or when it talks about his (view spoiler) so heed the trigger warnings.

I liked how Jace, after understandably being so angry with Linc, eventually realised why he'd left him without a word when they were teenagers. I liked that he got, that while it had been painful, Linc had done it for the right reasons.

The book is angsty, but it's true and honest, never just for plot points, and there is no magic dick cure all here. Both men accept they will be dealing with Linc's mental illness daily for the rest of their lives.

Now I need the rest of the band's stories asap please!

#ARC kindly provided by the author in return for an honest and unbiased review.
