

The
Heart
of the **Jungle**



Jeremy Pack

The Heart of the Jungle

Jeremy Pack

Download now

Read Online →

The Heart of the Jungle

Jeremy Pack

The Heart of the Jungle Jeremy Pack

Chris James is Fate's favorite plaything. When She took his parents in a car crash, Chris narrowly escaped the grief with his life, and he has the scars on his wrists to prove it. Seven years later, just as his life is finally turning around, Fate smashes his universe once again, taking his partner and two-year-old daughter and leaving behind a bloodbath.

After nearly a year of investigation, with no bodies, no motive, and no clues, the police are giving up. Enter Jason Kingsley, a wickedly handsome private investigator with a troubled past and a disconnected puzzle piece he could never find a place for. Jason has his work cut out for him: his search leads down a road that was never meant to be traveled, where a ruthless and hidden enemy lurks and dark secrets await. With passion drawing them together and sinister forces threatening to tear them apart, Chris and Jason race against time to unravel the mystery and get to the shocking truth that lies behind it all: The Heart of the Jungle.

The Heart of the Jungle Details

Date : Published April 30th 2012 by Dreamspinner Press

ISBN : 9781613724620

Author : Jeremy Pack

Format : Paperback 250 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Mystery, Crime, Contemporary, Suspense

 [Download The Heart of the Jungle ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Heart of the Jungle ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Heart of the Jungle Jeremy Pack

From Reader Review The Heart of the Jungle for online ebook

Amanda says

This was a pretty great book. I cried in the first few chapters and just fell for Chris. Poor Chris. He guy needs some serious hugging.

There were some issues I had. One was the main characters had a bad case of insta-love. i know some people really like that, I'm not so much. Also, every issue that came up had an easy out.

Regardless of the above complaints, I would definately recommend this book. It was emotional and it was very very good.

SueM says

4.5 stars

A very good M/M romantic suspense novel about a man, Chris, who lost everything when his daughter and his partner went missing, assumed murdered; and a former FBI agent, Jason, now a PI, who helps Chris to find the answers to why his life was torn apart.

Chris's past is both painful and heartbreaking, and Jason also carries some baggage from his days with the FBI. Together they find that nothing in Chris's life, both past and present, is what it seems, with the exception of his daughter.

This is not a romance in the true sense of the word, and honestly, given Chris's life, it's a realistic storyline. This is a novel that will leave you in tears, but the mystery is excellent, with enough twists and turns to satisfy most readers.

Poppy Dennison says

This is a fantastic mystery! Gah, I cried like a baby through the first bit. Your heart will just break into a million pieces for Chris, but it when the plot thickens, it develops so beautifully. I kept thinking I had it figured out and then I'd think I was wrong...but was I wrong? I love it when that happens. Great story!

Nicci says

Chris James' life is in a terrible mess. Fate does have it in for him as the police close the murder case of his partner and daughter as unresolved. He lives alone in the seat of the crime with memories wrapped around him in misery. Depression and mental instability wait to strike and take him down. Not even his best friend, George, can pull Chris out of the deep funk he has been swimming in for the past ten months.

The Heart of the Jungle is mostly an action packed murder mystery with the main characters following clues

of Chris' former partner, Michael Blake. Chris needs closure. He needs to confirm his partner, Michael, and his baby daughter are actually dead, as the police could never find the bodies.

Fate obviously loves Chris but not of the good kind. The first meeting he has with Jason Kingsley, private investigator, goes terribly wrong. Jason is antagonistic, a presumptuous jerk, assumes Chris knows things about Michael. The only thing positive about their meeting is that Jason's visit actually sparks Chris back to life with indignation.

Jeremy Pack does a very good job packing in the suspense and keeping me reading along. Chris conversation with George, meetings with dubious characters, Jason getting beat up by a stranger, the attempted murders all build up into a suspenseful, tense story. Jason and Chris will travel from Seattle to Las Vegas keeping one-step ahead of a mysterious stalker tracking their movements. I love it when a book allows me to speculate on the whodunit.

Little active romancing is shown in the story. Too much time is spent internalizing, ruminating on the other guy's physical attributes. You know the kind – the color of the eyes, the attractive body... Realistically, Chris isn't at a place to be involved with someone. Then the mystery does take up space, getting in the way of natural romantic progression. When they do come together, the jerk factor returns, makes me question whether these guys are right for each other.

It's natural to feel sympathy for Chris; after all, he suffered a great loss. I didn't like Jason much. What I do love is how the author pulls Chris out of the doldrums to create a take-charge person. His decisions aren't always smart. You can tell how naive Chris is and his choices beget unfavorable consequences, which add to the rising tension. The love Chris has for his daughter makes him strong. He wants answers. He wants closure. Chris will do anything to discover what happened to his baby girl.

Jeremy Pack makes his debut into the writing world of M/M Romance and Mystery genres, hence, I will refer to as M/M Romantic Suspense. He does a wonderful job keeping me engaged to the narrative, drawing me into the suspenseful, tensed world of murder. I hope he will continue writing M/M Romantic Suspense. He has the skills to improve on and I for one will be looking forward to more books from this author. Recommended for the mystery thriller and a touch of romance.

Book obtained from the publisher for an honest and fair review.

Originally posted at <http://twlibreviews.com/2012/05/revie...>

„•*°*~Gwendolyn~°**★°**★ says

In This Book You Will Find Sprinklings of a Romance~

This was a beautifully written contemporary romance. And, he said...

Chris and Jason~

The Book and More of What I Found~

♥Action

♥Mystery

♥Solid Writing

♥Solid Plot.

♥Love ~ An ever-so-sweetly written love story, however; IMO this is not primarily a romance novel...but,, there is a sweet as heck romantic ending~

I SIMPLY LOVED IT!

Monika says

4.5 stars

Loved this book from the start, it's a mystery, suspense, action story where the romance plays a secondary roll. I love a good mystery and this one was a joy to read, it was well written, well thought out and not over the top. Chris and Jason are believable main characters not the super human characters we sometimes see in books. My heart hurt for Chris trying to deal with the loss of his child but I just loved how he becomes strong and fierce as he tries to find out what happened to his daughter. And Jason while not a lovable character right off he soon becomes someone I was hoping would get what he's after in the end.

The only thing I wish there was more of is the romance between Jason and Chris, while I wouldn't want it to be the focal point of this book, for me there just wasn't enough.

For all those who love a good mystery I highly recommend this book!

Leaundra says

Sometimes I wish I was an author because I know I'm not going to do this review justice. I have to say this book grabbed me from the beginning and never let go. It is more heavy on the mystery there's romance but the mystery takes center stage and I actually liked that. It worked for this book. I never got to relax reading this book because there was so much crazy stuff going on. There were plenty of times I wanted to throw my Kindle(That's a good thing,lol) There were so many twist and turns when you think you had something figured out it changed. I'm not giving anything away just read it and see what I mean. Great read!!

Lady*M says

3.5 stars - *Well-written mystery/suspense that suffers from a case of "tell, not show". In spite of its flaws, the book is a refreshing addition to the genre.*

My ongoing romance with mysteries started during one summer while I was in junior high when I read two dozen of Agatha Christie's novels. When I started reading gay fiction/romance, my love for mysteries followed me. From Dave Brandstetter to Adrien English, from Donald Strachey to Stanley Kroski, there is something so appealing, something that kicks ass out of the most blatant stereotypes in the gay man who is

tougher, meaner, smarter than some very tough, mean and smart bad guys. So, when a new author who writes mysteries appears in our little corner of the publishing world, you can bet that I will jump right at him. Well... his book, anyway. At this point, I have to admit that my initial enthusiasm about the book played a small part in the final rating of this story.

A couple of warnings first. This is not a romance. There are some romantic elements in the book which are used as a plot device, but go into this book with realistic expectations and enjoy it for what it is – a mystery. Second, I was personally disgruntled by the publisher's choice of the book cover (not the quality of it, but the content), so much so that I wanted to omit it completely from the review. Realistically, I had to conclude that people interested in buying this book will see it, so I advise you to engage in short memory loss, because the cover reveals one of the story lines – in short, it is a *major* spoiler.

The author has an excellent writing style for this genre – clean, unobtrusive – that eases you right into the story. And the story starts strongly with Christian James, columnist for a lifestyle magazine, coming home to find it turned into a crime scene. His house is covered in blood and, although his partner and his daughter are missing, the police conclude that they were murder victims. Fast forward one year. Without any clues or suspects, the police are closing the case. Without any hope or closure, brokenhearted Chris decides to end it all and take his life. But before he even tries he is visited by Jason Kingsley, a former FBI agent, now private investigator, who witnessed Chris's meltdown in the police station. He has a piece of information for Chris, a tidbit left from one of his previous cases, which may be connected to the disappearance of Chris's family.

At this point, I was hooked on the story and intrigued by the characters. But I soon started having trouble staying focused on the story. I had to take frequent breaks. I couldn't exactly pinpoint why that was at first. I thought that the conspiracy Chris and Jason were trying to uncover was contrived (or, as the author says, "elaborate"), but the author explained why was that necessary. I had trouble with the characterization and, especially, Chris's behavior, but the author explained that too. And then it hit me – *that* was exactly my problem. Throughout the novel the author tells things to us, explains them to us, instead of showing them to us. This created a distance from the characters, and although they should have been sympathetic, especially Chris who had suffered so much, I found it difficult to understand them, to understand some of their actions. I couldn't help thinking that *The Heart of the Jungle* would have been a great movie where the actors' expressions and movie images would supplement the emotional content. I don't want to imply that there were no great emotional moments in the book: the scene where Chris tells Jason how it felt to have a daughter come into his life left me really choked up. However, I had a hard time believing in their connection, especially the fact that Jason falls in love with Chris within two or three days after meeting him.

Perhaps my biggest complaint comes from the fact that somewhere half way through the novel the story gets a big boost from Chris's TSTL (too stupid to live) moment. After a falling-out with Jason, an angry Chris does the stupidest thing possible, endangering more than his own life, which drives the novel to the very end. I wished that the events, including some incredible twists and turns that follow, would have developed more naturally. Additionally, the development of the protagonists is rather static. In Jason's case, it happens somewhat through his interaction with Chris, but the main change occurred through a coincidental meeting that makes him reevaluate his past in the FBI. In Chris's case, the main changes happened off-page, in the period between the ending of the novel and the epilogue. Among the secondary characters, I especially liked Jason's former colleague Frank. The conclusion of the story was very exciting and it kept me on the edge of my seat.

As I said at the beginning, a small part of my criticism stems from the high expectations I had after reading the great beginning of this story. I recognize that your experience will also depend on your mileage in the mystery genre. It's quite possible that your impressions will be significantly different than mine. The author

has a great command of language and obviously a lot of imagination. In fact, considering that this is his first novel, I suspect that Jeremy Pack will be a wonderful addition to the genre.

Written for Reviews by Jessewave.

Elisa Rolle says

2012 Rainbow Awards Honorable Mention (5* from at least 1 judge)

Pixie Mmgoodbookreviews says

5 Hearts

Very slight romantic element.

First published at MM Good Book Reviews

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

Chris has been handed a harsh hand by fate. Those that he loves have been taken from him, but he has no closure. A chance encounter brings a man who might be able to give him some answers, but as the digging begins and secrets come out, he realizes that the betrayals go deeper than he could ever imagine. Jason is haunted by an incident in his past. As he helps Chris get to the truth, he begins to fall for his client, but there are some things that are just too hard to overcome.

This is an incredible suspense/mystery that has you gripped and intrigued right from the prologue. Chris is bordering on the brink of destruction. After 10 months of investigations into the disappearance of his partner and daughter, all that was left was bloodstains. But, now as the police close the investigation, one man steps forward with information that was kept hidden; one man that will dig for the truth and get the answers that Chris has waited for. Chris fights his attraction for the private investigator, as he knows that this is the wrong time and the loss he has suffered has scarred him. Jason falls hard for Chris as he investigates the disappearances; the silent strength of the man, the tenderness and the rock solid core touches something inside him that he wasn't even sure he had. But, the case comes first and as he delves into intrigue and danger he begins to discover that it delves much deeper and further than he thought. As someone somewhere wants *The Heart of the Jungle* at all costs.

Oh. This was brilliant. A true suspense/mystery/thriller that was an absolute thrill to read. Do not think that this is a romance first because it isn't. There is a romantic element that adds to the story, but it isn't the main focus... far from it. This was a well-written, well-woven story that pulls you in, as you pull all the links together and find an elaborate long game plan from an adversary who is hidden in the shadows. You might think you have an idea of what is going on, but just as you reach to grasp it, it slips from your fingers as more scenes unfold and more players emerge.

All the characters are solidly written and the storyline and plot are fantastic. This book is solid and I really

can't find any fault with it. If it was mainstream m/f, it would be on the bestsellers list. The action and danger were spot on, not over the top, not underplayed, the characters not supermen but regular guys who get hit, bleed, stagger and fumble, but with an inner strength that shines through. They might have their own demons, but some things have to be set aside to finally go forward.

Was I disappointed that there was only a touch of sex... no. Because, this story fed me so much more than just romance; it fed me intrigue, mystery, twists, hope, despair, desolation, unwanted lust, guilt, danger and betrayal. This story didn't miss a spot and if you want a true thriller, mystery, suspense book to read then this is it and I highly recommend you go get this book and thoroughly enjoy the journey it takes you on.

*Portia's Two Cents: I just had to jump in and share a picture of Jeremy Pack I found while formatting this review. What a beautiful family. I promise y'all, I'm not going to rest until I get a chance to interview the writer that has my Pixie all hot and bothered. *

Kelly H. (Maybedog) says

[one of the MCs calls in the FBI as soon as he has any real evidence rather than trying to go it alone, despite risk to himself (hide spoiler)]

Fehu says

Very good thriller with a romance inside! I've read some review that said this book had no romance but it does, the romance is just not the main point of the story, but it's there.

This book has a story and it's focus is more on the mystery of crime which left a lot of questions for the police and the one left behind, Chris. One year after thinking his daughter and lover might have been murdered, a chance encounter brings new information about the lover he didn't know as well as he thought.

The police did give up on his case, but a private investigator, the former FBI agent Jason Kingsley, offers Chris his help. Not all is like it seems and something is rotten in Seattle city and Jason wants to find out what is going on but not all want him to find the truth. The race begins, as new motives are uncovered and feelings come into play. Chris and Jason have to work together on this case and Jason might find that in this case the stakes are especially high for him, while he might solve the mystery, to win Chris's heart will be definitely harder.

I was impressed with this book, since it was one of the best Dreamspinner books that I've read this year and that from a debut author! There is a lot of good sexual tension between Chris and Jason but it was not the prime focus of the story. Chris was hurt and grieving for the loss of his daughter, so it's natural that his first thought didn't turn towards a new lover.

Still the book is not a romance but a mystery thriller with a sweet love story, which takes a lot of time to develop but that fits the book. The book is well written, with a solid story line, good tension and it held me

captive until the last page. I'm looking forward to more books from this author!

MLE says

I received this book as an ARC through Net Galley. Thank you to the publisher, author, and Net Galley for opportunity to read, and review it.

I was excited to read this. I thought it would be a fun blend of action, and adventure. Maybe something along the lines of *Romancing the Stone* (dating myself a bit there, I know). I was sadly disappointed. I found the characters to be thin, the dialog overblown, and the plot read like a poor Bond rip-off. The villains were so stereotypical that I expected someone to throw a hat, or start twirling their mustache, or pat their fluffy white Persian cat. The attraction between Chris and Jason can only be described as instant love, and I just don't feel the chemistry between them not matter how much they both talk about it. I thought Jason's trauma was more him reacting poorly to something that was truly his fault. It felt like a childish tantrum, and his inability to control his temper, and reactions only added to this impression.

I don't think the child added anything to the story except she gave Chris something to fixate on. I don't understand why Chris would chose to adopt a child if he was in such a bad relationship with someone he truly did not love.

The story's main villain was easy to spot, the foreshadowing was truly so heavy it practically beat the reader over the head. It frustrated me that Chris was unable to see or question any of the things that were so evident to the reader.

I never found myself becoming fully invested in the characters, or their plight. It bored me, but wasn't terrible until Jason spoke unforgivable words to Chris in the heat of anger after Chris tries to run after their first sexual encounter. I don't care how mad he was, what he said to Chris crossed a major line, and there was no apology, no explanation, and Chris even blames himself later in the story. I lost my respect for both of them at the moment, and nothing that followed won me back.

A copy of this review is also available on my shared blog.

Jenn says

I don't even know where to begin.

When this started with the prologue, I thought the dialogue, word choices, and style of the book had to be purposefully odd. Something as over-the-top as movies like *Body Heat*, *Wild Things*, or *Romancing the Stone*. I laughed thinking I was in on the joke.

But, by about maybe the second or third chapter I started thinking I had been way, way wrong. Then, the clichés, characters, and plot all became painful to read.

I didn't feel any heat between the two MCs. Why on Earth did they like each other???? And please, there is

no way from the interactions the reader read that I could be convinced they were building upon love. I dislike insta-love immensely as well.

You can guess the plot twist and bad guys by about 40% & every kitchen sink Matlock mystery element was thrown in.

Of course the main detective would be incompetent and chewing on cigars and snickering in his laziness.

Of course the mourning man would be quiet, beautiful, and drawing the men in like honey while looking down & being demure.

Of course the former FBI agent that never believed in love and has the flashing white teeth falls for the simple, unassuming man in a day or two and he's *never felt anything like this in 48 hours. It's crazy!*

Of course the shit goes down in Las Vegas because they don't call it "Sin City" for nothin. *wink wink nudge*

The child felt like a convenient plot device that made no sense.

On second thought, maybe this all was tongue-in-cheek.

I've heard author's second book is much, much better & a totally different style so I'll still check it out. Maybe this was just a debut book that needed to have the kinks ironed out.

Jayded says

Ok, I haven't actually finished this, I'm a little over half way done, and I want so badly to love it, the plot is awesome, but the writing is so overblown I can barely get through it. Reactions are over the top, descriptions are too long. I am approaching the big sex scene, and I am cringing at the thought of how it is likely to be described. really disappointed.

ETA I have finished the book. the sex scene read like something out of a seventies harlequin romance, The investigator was incompetent, and the plot itself ended up being as overblown as the rest of the book. Also, I guessed who the mastermind was the moment I knew there was a mastermind involved. Too cliched for words.
