

The Way Back to Us

Jamie Howard

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Gavin MacCormack found the one. He fell in love. Hard. Until one night he ran out for some ice cream and came back to an empty dorm room, closets bare and nothing but a quick hand-written note saying, I'm sorry. Those two words taught Gavin the meaning of heartbreak. A feeling he never wants to encounter again. And as the lead singer of a Grammy award-winning band he's had plenty of opportunities for casual, no-strings fun, which is just the way he likes it.

Dani Winters has had more names than birthdays. On the run with her father for nearly as long as she can remember, she's lived her life by three rules—always plan for the worst, maintain a low profile at all costs, and never let anyone get too close. Except she broke that last rule once and her heart has never forgiven her.

One chance encounter changes everything. Seeing Dani resurrects feelings in Gavin he thought were long buried, and this time he's not letting her disappear without getting some answers. But Dani's life is the definition of complicated and she's playing with fire by letting Gavin back in. When the time comes to run again, Dani needs to decide if a life without love is worth living, or if it's time to stop running and fight.

The Way Back to Us Details

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Author: Jamie Howard Format: Kindle Edition

Genre: Romance, Contemporary, Music, New Adult, Contemporary Romance



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From Reader Review The Way Back to Us for online ebook

Bookgasms Book Blog says

I am so crazy about this *Love Unplugged* series. Each book is perfectly addicting and gripping to read in its own right. They all technically work as standalones, but the return on investment is so much greater if you've been along for the ride since the beginning and - man, I am *so* glad I've been around since the beginning.

Gavin and Dani's story felt a little darker than the previous ones. There was much more suspense - more questions than answers for the vast majority of the story. That said, as far as second-chance romances go? This one was tops. I could feel the burn between Gavin and Dani, my heart ached for them and cheered for them and basically put itself in the middle of all the dips and valleys they encountered on their way to happily-ever-after. I loved them. I loved how they cared for each other and that almost urgent need to be together, even when it seemed impossible.

I also loved catching up with the other couples. Like I said, this book would be fine as a standalone, but the secondary storylines basically expand upon the previous books and they were incredibly rewarding to me. The friendships between this group of friends is a complete delight to read. And - there's at least one more story to tell here (I hope) and Ms. Howard has been dangling that carrot in front of us for a while now. I want to eat it up! I'm so hungry for it!

In all, another huge hit for me in this fantastic series. A little angsty, a little suspenseful - *The Way Back to Us* is a sexy, sweet and emotional read that is definitely not to be missed! ~ Shelly, 4 Stars

Roxanne says

Full review to come

Claire - The Coffeeholic Bookworm says

Surprisingly, The Way Back to Us managed to entertain me. There is mystery and suspense integrated in this rockstar romance, which is a big plus for me. For those who do not know, I really am into mysteries and thrillers more than YA or fantasy. I blame John Grisham for my fascination with action-themed books and Sidney Sheldon for the mysteries that I've always loved dissecting and solving.

When the female lead character of The Way Back To Us presented herself with danger and questions about her past and present situation, I knew I would get hooked. Plus, there's the added bonus of rockstar (rockstars, plural!) who know how to make music and let music worm its way to the heart of its beloved. End result – me swooning and sweating with anticipation!

Gavin had never forgotten about Dani, the one who got away. It didn't matter that she left him without saying goodbye nor explanation. When they encountered each other again, Dani was different, but their feelings only intensified, however they denied it. But Dani's past and dangerous secret was what's keeping

them from having the normal relationship they dreamt about.

The first book I read of Jamie Howard was The Feeling of Forever, featuring a hollywood actress and a rockstar on wheels. I liked it much, so I had set my heart out when I read this latest book in the series. The male lead character, Gavin, was too good to be true. He's hot, his muscles are taut and he's got a really loyal heart and he even adopted a dog.. awww.. Plus, he liked going to "Hogwarts" and quoted Liam Neeson so I'm giving him extra bonus points.

Dani, on the other hand, kept it all within herself, and it irked me that she was too stubborn in hiding her secret. I understand that this secret could kill her or destroy Gavin, but I thought she could have been more understanding with his feelings. After all, it might just be what she needed to release the burden she'd been keeping inside. Somehow, their feelings had me feeling a little low.

But when the action and nerve-wracking chase happened at the latter part of the story; from then on, I knew I could no longer let go of the book.

In the end, the story did surprise me and got me blown away. Jamie Howard managed to steal my breath. But still, I felt like there's something else missing and I can't wait to get it on the next book. Yay!!! As usual, the author's writing was great and effortlessly engaging. Would love to delve into her other bodies of work soon!

What was that line about losing love? That they'd prefer to have lost it because that meant at one point they had it? I'd spend the rest of my life with a broken heart beating in my chest, but I'd never be anything but grateful for it because it meant I was lucky enough to fall in love. Even if it wasn't the kind of love I could have forever.

Rê says

3.5 "Second chances" Stars

ARC via NetGalley

Thank you, Swerve.

This is my fifth (?) book by Jamie Howard, and I'm ready for the next one, especially since I hope (please, please) it'll be about Ben and Rachel and all the angst of loving someone for years without moving it past friendship.

But while The Way Back to Us wasn't my favorite book by this go-to author, it was still entertaining.

Let me just pause for a second and say I'm still in love with Juliet, the heroine from the last book in this series. She kept pulling my attention toward her whenever she showed up in a scene in this new book, and she was consistent in how she kept seeing the good in people and giving them a chance. I also loved to see

her get closer to her happy ever after with Felix. <3 font="">

Now, as to Dani and Gavin, the couple we get to focus on this time around, I wish I had connected more with their story. My main problem here wasn't Gavin. He was still as carefree and funny as I remembered him to be. Dani, on the other hand, took a little longer to warm up to.

I have to be fair and say I have a hard time connecting with the second chance romance trope. There's something about the characters already knowing each other and being in love and then breaking up for some reason or other than usually doesn't work for me. Though Dani's motive for running away and breaking Gavin's heart was strong, I guess not knowing the truth about it until much later in the story made it a little harder for me to understand and forgive her for what she did. Half the time I felt like Ben--ready to confront Dani about what she did and why she was back.

Maybe seeing her more reluctant about walking back into Gavin's life when she knew she'd have to leave again, or fighting the attraction between them harder or suffering a little more would've helped. I don't know. Maybe. I just didn't fall in love with Dani as hard and as fast as I wished.

Now, Gavin was another story. I felt sorry for the poor guy because he was so in love with Dani even after all those years. And even though she she had hurt him that bad, he was still willing to give her another chance because he didn't want to miss out on the opportunity to be with her. The whole Howgarts thing made sense because it was such a Gavin thing to think and say. Part of the reason I tried so hard to like Dani, despite her doing some things that made me cringe was because of how much Gavin loved her. That's how much I liked him.

I also LOVED, LOVED the beach house part of this book because I got to see all the characters from the series together. I loved the girls cooking, the girls and guys playing in the pool, the dinner conversation with them sharing secrets (I'm still in shock because I didn't remember the Gavin/Felix threesome thing. o.O). My absolute favorite parts of this book were when all the characters were together doing things. I want more of that.

So while The Way Back to Us didn't hook me the way the previous book in this series did, I still loved to read more about Gavin and get to see that great cast of characters interacting again. Also, there was a lot of Rachel and Ben, and do I need to say once again how excited about their love story I am?! In case I do, here's the perfect gif:

Laura says

I absolutely adored the first two books in this series, so I was ecstatic when the publisher emailed me to ask if I wanted to read and review the third one. I might have let out a little shriek of joy.

Gavin wasn't one of my favorite characters in the first two books, so I was pleasantly surprised to find that this book *wasn't* about him trying to overcome his commitment issues. From page 1, Gavin is focused on Dani, and that's how I like my romantic heroes to be. He came across as much more likable in this book than the first two. I loved seeing how much he cared about his family.

Dani took me a while to warm up to. But her soft spot for Gavin really made her more relatable, and I loved seeing the way she bonded with the other women.

Excellent writing, hot sex scenes, and an interesting plot that hasn't been done a thousand times. Highly recommended.

Really, I only have one issue: WHEN do we get Ben and Rachel's story???? (I'm dying for it, especially after reading this book.)

Melissa_lifeinthebooks says

Copy received via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

This was a predictable second chance romance, nothing about it excited me. I didn't like Dani, I was just over her and couldn't really get into the story. The secondary characters we're more interesting to me. Overall just an okay read.

Irene says

4 stars

Olivia Farr says

"The Way Back to Us" is a really fantastic second-chance romance with hints of mystery. We follow Gavin and Dani in alternating first person points of view. Gavin and Dani had a passionate relationship back in college which ended when Dani disappeared without a word. Since then, Dani has been traveling around the country with her father, constantly watching over her shoulder. Gavin's band has become a hit, for which he writes and sings.

Everything is going to change when Dani and her father come to NYC. As they run into each other, they have to decide whether they can move forward- especially since their time is limited and Dani will have to leave eventually (she never stays anywhere for more than 6 months). However, as Gavin says, it's worth going to Hogwarts, even if you can't stay for very long.

As their relationship grows and we wonder about the mystery that keeps Dani constantly moving, the book completely sucks you in. I found myself unable to put it down as I became completely invested in Dani and Gavin. The second half is full of action and all sorts of events that I won't describe to avoid spoilers, but I will say that this is a heavily plot-driven romance. There are only a few hot and steamy scenes and the vast majority of the book focuses on their lives/events. I prefer it this way but I know some people prefer more intimate scenes, so I wanted to mention it.

Overall, it's a really fantastic and intense romance, and I'd love to read more from this talented author! There are so many great side characters that I would love to hear about in future books. Please note that I received an ARC from the publisher through netgalley. All opinions are my own.

Wit & Wonder Books says

ARC provided by the author in exchange for an honest review

A little bit of mystery and suspense to go hand and hand with this fantastic second chance romance by Jamie Howard. *The Way Back To Us* is an entertaining continuation of *Love Unplugged* series, but I will note that each book can be read as a standalone. These stories of love that Jamie produces are addicting and worthy! With each book, the characters and storylines become better and better.

Gavin's heart has already been shaken and taken by Dani back in college. Even though she left him high and dry, vanishing with no word, his heart held a soft spot for the beauty. Now, apart of a Grammy-award winning band, he catches a glimpse of her again and memories, emotions wreck havoc on his heart. Can Gavin have his love back and can he prevent her from running again? What happens when he figures out her secrets?

You can't help but love hard with Gavin. His love shines off the pages and even though Dani's character was hard to get to know, to like or care for; his affection makes you yearn for them to reconnect. With their relationship, I only wished there was a prologue of when their love took off. To be able to have a glimpse of what it was like for them in college.

Overall, this third installment was a joy to read. Jamie has a talented hand at writing, bringing her characters, plots and descriptions to the utmost highest standards. I believe there is one more couple in the series that deserves a HEA and I can't wait to read their romance when the time comes.

4 Stars

Jemima says

Title: The Way Back To Us (Love Unplugged #3)

Author: Jamie Howard

Genre: Contemporary Romance Publication Date: December 12, 2017

I did things the other way round-I read this book first before I read the first two.

The way back to us wasn't my favourite second chance romance- I'm not saying that it was bad, I actually quite enjoyed it. But to tell you the truth, the entire time I was reading this book I had the greatest sense of pity for Gavin; his undying love for Dani even after all this time.

On a lighter note, this book was written beautifully, with just the right amount of angst and suspense. I liked Dani but for me, the star of the show was Gavin, his tenderness, love and dedication towards Dani was beautiful!

All in all, a wonderful second chance romance, if not a tad 'unfinished' (atleast for me). Maybe an epilogue would have sealed the deal for me because after that last chapter, it felt anti-climactic and unfinished for me. Sorry!

For more reviews and giveaways follow my blog at www.jemimajamir.com

Cristina (My Tiny Obsessions) says

Read full review HERE

I've loved all the books of this series so far, and this was another great installment. The writing was great once again, and I really liked that it was told in dual POV, because the story is so clouded with mystery.

About the characters, I'll admit that I liked Gavin way way more than I did Dani. But again, this was because her character is not very transparent. Yeah, she kicks ass, but I wanted just more from her. While Gavin was always in, and I loved his openness regarding his feelings and his intentions. I also cannot get enough of the relationships within that group. I love them.

I really liked the connection between Dani and Gavin, but I felt like I was missing something. They met and fell in love in the past, and while the chemistry was very much there, I still didn't know HOW it happened, and it bugged me a bit. Because I felt like Dani kept so much of her under lock and key, and I wondered how her first relationship with Gavin worked, if there was always so much of her that was hidden from him.

That's what I wish I gotten more of, the development of the romance and the feelings, because I felt like I was coming in in the middle of their story without much context.

I did like the overall plot, though I thought it was a bit expected. But it was well done, and I really enjoyed the resolution.

I REALLY RECOMMEND THIS BOOK, AND THIS SERIES AS A WHOLE. SO, IF YOU HAVEN'T STARTED LOVE UNPLUGGED YET, PLEASE DO!

Coral says

Gavin is a singer in a famous band who is still hung up on the one that got away. For years, he's been

wondering what makes Dani disappear from his life without a word making him insecure in having other relationships. Years later, he was struck dumb when a chance encounter makes him meets Dani once again in a different city. But is it just mere coincidence when she finds a job in a bar that he frequents to.

The plot is predictable enough with the constant push and pull of whether Dani will stay for the moment or run. However, I find the side characters more interesting than the main H/h. Maybe because I find their characters inconsistent with the plot.

Plot: 4/5

Characterisation: 3/5 Prose: 3/5 (2 1st POV) How much I enjoyed it: 3/5

ARC received from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for a fair review

Cátia says

Having read the previous books of this series and loved those books I was really excited when I found out that I had an eARC for The Way Back to Us. I can tell you that this one didn't disappoint a bit. It's not my favorite book in the series but I still loved it a lot, especially because it's a second chance romance and who doesn't love second chance romances?? I know I do... A LOT.

Having read the past few books I already kind of knew Gavin but this book made me love him. He was such a great guy. He really cares about his family and friends and does anything he can for them. I didn't like Dani as much but mostly because she was a little bit closed off. Even if this book is partially told from her POV she still hides a lot of things and you only get to really know her halfway through the book. She was still a great girl and I loved how kickass she was. I did enjoy their relationship a lot even if I wanted to know more about their past and how they met.

However, and just as the previous books, one of my favorite things in this book is the band's dynamics and the friendships. I love how much those boys and girls support each other in the most difficult times and how they are not only friends but basically a family. Can I have Ben and Rachel's story now?? I really need to know what's happening between those two and I've been waiting way too long for that book.

With this being my third Jamie Howard book I already knew how much I would love the writing style. I love that her books are told in dual POV and her writing flows really easily. I just love to read her books.

Overall, this was another amazing book by Jamie Howard and I loved everything about it. Once again, I'm pretty sure this won't be my last book she has written... especially because Ben's book will come out soon-ish (at least I hope so). You should definitely give this one a try if you love contemporary romances and amazing bands that are more like a family than a normal band.

Snow says

First time, I've started reading Jamie Howard's work was by chance, I was approved by NetGalley when I

picked the first book in the **Love Unpligged** series, in fact I was surprised that I was approved in the first place...LOL

Anyway, what I love about **Jamie Howard**'s writing is the easy flow, the effortless writing simply pulls you into the world of its, at first sight, simple but unique characters, and then you realize it's more complicated than that, they appear real and humany vulnerable and you can't help but want to be a part of their world, you want them to work out all the differencies, to sooth the pain and hurt and make it all better...and when the culminating resolution comes to light, you are pent up til then and then you just sigh and let go the agonizing angst following by a fulfillment of a happy ending.

The third book is no different, and it offers the same culminating relief just as the previous ones and I have enjoyed it very much.

Looking forward to the next one, whether it's a part of the series or a standalone.

ARC kindely provided by the author via NetGalley

Release date: December 12th, 2017

Lenore Kosinski says

http://celebrity readers.com/2017/12/1...

I received a free copy through NetGalley in exchange for an honest and unbiased review/opinion.

4 stars — I had a bit of a harder time getting sucked into this one, but I can't figure out if that had more to do with me and my frazzled mind, or the book... That's always the kicker eh? Which, obviously if I still gave it 4 stars, does not mean the book wasn't great! I just wish I had been more immersed in it.

After reading The Feeling of Forever, I was super excited for Gavin's book. I had so many questions, and I really wanted to dive more deeply into him...I felt like we got hints of perhaps some drug abuse in that book, and other struggles. So it was kind of odd that we never really learned about any of that stuff. I mean, we know Gavin was heartbroken, but I guess I expected to see the change in him. If I'd not read TFOF, I definitely wouldn't have noticed any of this though, so that is only a quirk when reading the series in order.

BUT! Gavin was amazing. Other than that little bit of missing depth, Gavin was everything I was hoping for and more. He was sweet, and hilarious, and quirky, and sexy as all get out. And he did break my heart, b/c he broke his own heart again and again, but yet was unable to stop himself from loving. I was totally expecting the same old resistance and denial, and was pleasantly surprised by Gavin's openness. And it wasn't just his love for Dani, which was inspiring... He also loved his family and his friends FIERCELY. And that is a beautiful quality to have, you know?

I loved Dani too, but my love was a bit more subdued for her. I just found it so hard not to want to smack her

sometimes...I think I had a hard time wrapping my head around how long it took her to realize that a life always on the run really wasn't a life at all. But I had to keep reminding myself that that was all she really knew, and she was so conditioned to that lifestyle that it wouldn't be that easy to just accept that perhaps that wasn't the only choice. I was also expecting her to behave in certain ways, and was pleasantly surprised when we did get to see her put her heart on the line as well.

I think I've discovered something about myself while reading these books...I don't think I like mysteries. I have the kind of personality that NEEDS ALL THE ANSWERS and gets very impatient when things are hinted at but the reader is not told until much later. I'm just too fucking impatient. Seriously. It drives me insane that we would just get sprinkles of Dani's past here and there throughout the story. I'm not talking about the part where Dani didn't know everything until the end...I'm OK with that mystery (and even had my own theories about some of that, and was kind of close on a few parts). I'm talking about me, as a reader, not knowing what Dani knows when she hints at it (like what happened to have them on the run). It just ends up frustrating me. Even getting to know about Gavin and Dani's past took a bit longer than I'd hoped. ALL THE IMPATIENCE! Again, this is not a failing in the writing, it's just not a match for my personality.

You know what was a match for me?? That this book just expands upon the friendship of the four boys, and we get to see them all interacting quite a bit. And we get more pieces of Jules and Felix (and if I'd read Ian and Bianca yet, we get more of them too). AND I'm even more excited to figure out what's up Ben's butt, and see how his story will play out with Rachel. I also LOVED that we get to see the girl's friendships develop as well, and I loved how Dani fit in with them.

So despite my little rant about impatience, I really did thoroughly enjoy this book!! Honestly, I think I just like to hear myself talk. Gavin alone makes this book worth it, I just can't get over how well Ms. Howard writes book boyfriends for me...because you know he's mine right? "Is this *the* Gavin MacCormack?? OMG!!!"