



Bound to Fall

Jaime Samms

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With so many fences between them and happily ever after, two men wonder if it's worth opening the gate.

Ten years ago Eddie Crane, an actor on the rise, loved his costar and dreamed of the day they could be together. But his love, with his submissive nature, couldn't handle fame, and before Eddie could help him, he died in a car accident—with Eddie at the wheel.

Now, guilt-ridden, Eddie buries himself in bad decisions and prays that a stunt—on or off camera—will go wrong.

Teenaged fantasies about the actor on his wall distracted Arthur Pike from real life—his dead father, runaway mother, gruff grandparents, and his unrequited love for his cousin's straight husband. Now grown and off the farm, Pike is a horse stuntman hired to teach a reluctant Eddie to ride.

Pike is drawn to Eddie's dominant nature despite the sadness clinging to the actor. Eddie let one lover down, but in Pike's submissiveness, he sees the possibility for redemption.

Bound to Fall Details

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From Reader Review Bound to Fall for online ebook

Love Bytes Reviews says

3.5 Heart Review by Amber

Eddie Crane has let his life and career spin dangerously out of control. Having once been a very successful actor the loss of longtime lover has left him drifting. His alone, guilt ridden, and in pain. His manager/best friend gets him a movie deal to play a gay cowboy. The thing is, Eddie is deathly afraid of horses. In order to put in the best performance of his career all while trying to salvage his professional life he knows he'll need help.

Arthur Pike is a professional stunt men, specializing in horses. He's contracted as Eddie's stunt double in his upcoming movie and also to help him get comfortable riding and being around horses.

The attraction between these men is pretty immediate. They both are hung up on the past and have to get over that in order to move onto the future.

I am so completely torn with this story. The things that worked, were done really well. Like the writing for instance, this is a quality author, there is no denying that. The plot structure, character development, and pacing of the story was good. I was interested in these characters and truly enjoyed watching things play out.

On the other hand, the things that didn't work for me were pretty big issues mostly because they were recurring things. I honestly felt like I got whiplash from the D/s personality switches that kept happening between the main characters. There was a point at the beginning that I had to go back and re-read the blurb because I couldn't remember who was suppose to be the dominate because their personalities shifted so many times. To clarify, I understood Pike needing control in the business setting but his struggling with being submissive happened in the bedroom and at his apartment too. And I actually liked the characters and even though Eddie was the "damaged" one I liked him more than I liked Pike. Pike was very quick to blow a fuse and that was a turn off because it came off as childish, like a temper tantrum that kept happening over and over again. I love angst in my stories but his reactions were so over the top and that put me off. I also had issues with the Ryan/Cory not letting go, constantly pining thing. It almost felt like I couldn't enjoy these two men as a couple because we were constantly bombarded with Cory/Ryan talk.

I do have to admit there were a couple of BDSM scenes that were well done. When Eddie actually came off as a capable and confident Dom the scenes turned out pretty damn good. The problem was he was unsure quite often so it just made for some frustrating moments.

I always enjoy a good "movie star" story. I like all the glitz and glamour and paparazzi this story had all of that plus the slimy good for nothing Producer. I also enjoyed the interactions with the horses. They are almost treated just like a human actor, I really liked that.

Overall, I did enjoy the story although some things just didn't work for me but like I said the things that did work were done very well. Plus, the ending was pretty much the definition of perfection.

This book was provided free in exchange for a fair and honest review for Love Bytes. Go there to check out other reviews, author interviews, and all those awesome giveaways. Click below.

Alina Popescu says

3.5 stars, rounded to 4

What I loved most about this book were the two main characters. They are both flawed, closed up, lost, and in need of something to encourage them to hold on. In different ways, these two are broken and whatever faith brings them together is a saving grace for the both of them. Eddie needs to dominate, Pike needs to be convinced to submit, giving each other the grounding, the balance they require.

A movie start with a past, a stuntman with a less famous, yet equally haunting past of his own, Eddie and Pike find their way out to a life of hope and love without ever asking each other to deny past loves or past events. This is a story about embracing who and what you are, what you most desire, and then grabbing it with both hands. It is not an easy, fluffy-sweet love story, it's rough, real, and as romantic as any more vanilla relationship.

The supporting cast, from the understanding, to the selfish, to the passive or not so passive aggressive of the bunch, is a wonderful mix of characters that hold their own and bring out the best and worst of the leads.

I did feel at times that the story was a little drawn out, that things could have progressed a little faster, but in that repetitive revisiting of the past, of what holds them back and cripples them, therein lies the key to these men's future happiness. So stick with it and enjoy this unfolding love story.

Gigi says

all done, but I need to mull this one over before I rate and review. This one fucked with me. Big time.

Alisa says

@ 40%

Dear Book,

I think we should take a break. It's not you, it's me. I hope we can be friends.

Alisa

(I lied....it's totally Book's fault. I just don't want to hurt his feelings)

@60%

Ok this was my 3x trying to finish this book. I just can't do it. I hate both of the MC's. They act like teenage girls. There's so much fabricated drama. There's a dead lover trope that just goes on and on (& on). There's the guy in love with his straight best friend trope. (complete with pushing chairs back from the table and storming out of a room....like a teenage girl....when straight guy looks lovingly AT HIS WIFE). There's some

wonky kind of bdsm plotline. Ugg....I don't really know what was supposed to be going on here. All I know is I can't take another minute of it.

Feliz says

There was an unique kind of power dynamics between the MC's, a D/s - relationship of sorts but with hardly any of the usual props. it was quite awesome. Always amazes me in how many ways this particular author can portray a power-exchange dynamic without ever getting repetitive.

Serena Yates says

With two men who are equally confused, messed up, and at a loss as to what to do with their lives, this story is bound to be depressing before it gets better. Eddie makes one bad choice after another to try to ignore/overcome/not have to deal with the fact that his submissive lover died in a car crash ten years ago – a crash where Eddie was at the wheel. Pike comes out of an awful, abusive childhood and a bad family situation only to fall hopelessly in love with his cousin's husband. Neither man can move on, and I spent about the first third of the book tearing my hair out and almost losing the will to live. The utter hopelessness of both men ever finding happiness, never mind with each other, was really getting to me.

But then something wonderful begins to happen, and I perked up a little. Pike is drawn to Eddie and his dominant nature, which reduces Pike's obsession with the unattainable husband. Eddie discovers Pike's submissive nature, and begins to crawl out of his shell. As unlikeable as I found Eddie in the beginning, he (eventually) redeems himself as more about his background is revealed. Pike is totally messed up, and needs a lot of patience. But I cared about both of them, and their emotional growth as they heal each other, though slow, is amazing. The resulting relationship is complicated, but clearly worth all the trouble.

The idea of an actor and his stunt double bonding in this way is interesting and unusual. The BDSM element added not just spice, but an extra level of complexity and intensity. They underpin what happens between Eddie and Pike on an emotional level with a physically visible aspect, and that supported the credibility of the psychological growth and development of me.

If you like complex (not to say complicated) characters, if a journey through hell and some challenging conflict is what you like to see in your romances, and if you're looking for a read that is intense, emotionally draining, but ultimately uplifting and hopeful, then you will probably enjoy this novel.

NOTE: This book was provided by Dreamspinner Press for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

Erin says

It was ok. All over the place though. Too many tropes that got dropped or not thought out. Stick to one or two

Caroline Brand says

REVIEWED FOR PRISM BOOK ALLIANCE

4.75 Stars

Bound to Fall goes straight onto my shelves of books I love. I am yet to find a book written by Jaime Samms that I don't like. 350 pages was just not enough for me when it came to Eddie and Pike as I could have greedily and happily continued to read about them.

Eddie is a film star that has hit hard times. Dealing with the demons from his past which include a dead lover his life has spiralled out of control on a journey of drugs and booze. A new film offer may be his last chance at recovery and he moves onto a farm to learn how to ride a horse but more importantly clean up his act. As the story progresses it is clear in the years since his partner's death he hasn't dealt with his grief or his guilt and to some extent his poor choices have been enabled by his best friend and manager Margaret.

Pike grew up watching Eddie's films and crushed on the man from afar. Never in his wildest dreams did he expect to meet the man and help him overcome his phobia of horses. Pike has been searching for 'something' for years but has never found anything to meet his expectations. In love and with a lot of hero worship towards his best friend Ryan who he works alongside daily he holds a lot of anger and confusion over where his life is going and he is constantly hiding a large and important part of himself.

Jaime Samms gives us two very mixed up men but oddly the one thing that doesn't seem mixed up is their relationship. They quickly recognise in each other what they need but this is by no means a conventional D/s relationship. Eddie may be dominant but he is also world shy and falling apart and often it is Pike that takes control. Pike on the other hand may be submissive but he doesn't gift Eddie with it easily. He needs to trust and is often so overwhelmed with how he feels that he becomes angry and scared. The beauty of this story for me was watching the two men build their trust and understanding of each other and not blindly jump into a power exchange where one of them could be hurt.

There is a lot of enabling in this book both from Ryan and Margaret of which neither man has been able to see clearly until they take a step back and help each other see their reality. Each of them helps the other, they almost have to deconstruct their current lives before they can move on but their support for each is impenetrable as they plan for a future together.

Beautiful story which I cannot recommend enough!

CB says

A really nice love story without a lot of angst between the MC's but enough story to keep me very entertained. Sexy and perfectly imperfect - just how I like them!

Joyfully Jay says

A Joyfully Jay review.

3.5 stars

The review for Bound to Fall posed something of a quandary for me. I'm a fan of this particular author, but while this book was certainly written well from a stylistic point of view, the plot and the characters never really clicked for me. The pacing is okay but it tends to drag during a handful of expositional sections and I think about a quarter of this book could have been trimmed and none of the essential plot information lost.

I enjoyed both of the characters but not necessary together. Eddie likes to pretend he could care less about his work or anyone around him. The death of his best friend and lover left a terrible wound, one that Eddie refuses to let heal. So he turns to drugs and alcohol, but it's obvious that while he wants to escape his pain, he doesn't know how to surrender fully to self-destruction. His desperation comes through clearly and it makes the character relatable. That he has survived in spite of himself speaks to his inner strength and his unspoken desire for something more from his life. As a reader, it was easy to warm up to Eddie and his actions are often easier to understand than Arthur's.

Read Sammy's review in its entirety [here](#).

Lauraadriana says

I liked it! It could have been like 20% shorter, but I still enjoyed Pike and Eddie. Interesting D/s dynamic! Kinda hoping the security guy gets a book!

Kristie says

This was a hard book to review, but I gave it a shot. Check it out [here](#), at Boys In Our Books.

Debra says

3.5 Stars

Eddie Crane has been on a downward spiral for the past 10 years. Once a rising star in Hollywood, the death of his co-star and secret lover Cory in a car accident where Eddie was the driver has left him drowning in guilt and regrets. One bad decision follows another, from binging on coke and alcohol to hang gliding and heli-skiing with the hopes that things will go wrong, and he has almost decimated the career he once loved. Arthur Pike is Eddie's stuntman on his new film and a horse rancher tasked with the job of teaching Eddie how to ride and interact with the horses they will be using. He is also wallowing in unrequited love for his straight best friend Ryan, who now runs the ranch he grew up on and is married to Pike's cousin. Pike knows Ryan will never be his, and would never do anything to hurt his cousin, but he is unable to move on from Ryan, the ranch or the stigma of a family known for violence and abandonment.

When Eddie arrives on the ranch with his best friend and agent Margaret, he is still coming down from the effects of his latest coke binge, but even that doesn't stop him from seeing the pain and sadness Pike is feeling and the knowing looks between him and the others on the ranch. Eddie is immediately moved to protect the man. Pike has long had a crush on the actor and knows the public person, but the broken man he gets to know, the one who has panic attacks and shuts down when his public life gets to be too much, is also the one man who sees the need in Pike to give up control in private and the man that Pike imagines can make him submit.

This was a bit of a slow read for me. I enjoyed Eddie and Pike as a couple. The unlikely pair actually fit well with each other, but they are so wrapped up in their pasts and have been unable or unwilling to move forward for so long there were times I wondered how they could really make something together. I liked the play of Pike being the strong one to the outside world and shoring Eddie up then looking to completely surrender in the bedroom. The BDSM aspect is there, but does not overwhelm the story and Eddie's desire to build trust before giving into everything Pike wants was something nice to see.

There is a lot more going on though and there some scenes where the author told instead of showed while others I felt were repetitive. There are so many dynamics at play outside of the growing relationship between Eddie and Pike, almost all of them based in dysfunction and codependence that sometimes it was almost too much and I felt it slowed the story down. While the main problems of Pike's feelings for Ryan and Eddie's for Cory are fully explored, not all of the other issues brought up are well fleshed out, including Pike's anger issues and Eddie's previous 10 years of alcohol and drug abuse.

I enjoyed the epilogue and while not all the relationships in this story are completely repaired, there is hope that they will be. I'd recommend this if you enjoy a story that isn't about getting to the sex, but is about two men really working hard to shed their past mistakes and move forward, even if it means giving up the things they have convinced themselves they never would or could.

Full review originally posted at Sinfully...Addicted to All Male Romance

Averin says

Too damn long. And BDSM. Neither MC worked for me.

One of these days I'll remember to check the reviews instead of downloading because a book is free.

Makhda says

I want to read this so much. But it contain one of my pet peeves. Dead lover. I hope the MC did not wallowing in grieve for most of the book.
