



Not Knowing Jack

K.A. MITCHELL

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When your lover becomes a stranger, trust is the weakest link of all.

Bartender Tony Gemetti has it all: a rich, hot boyfriend, a McMansion in the burbs and unlimited sex in an expectation-free zone. He thought that was all he ever wanted out of any relationship until Jack begins making excuses for frequent disappearances. Realizing he has more than his libido and enough drawers for his T-shirt collection riding on this relationship, Tony figures it's time to find out what's going on.

Jack Noble has spent his life hiding his real self behind a carefully created image. With Tony, he finally knows real freedom, real happiness. Now a past of buried secrets and lies is closing in, and no matter how hard he tries to stop it, the truth is tearing through. Once Tony learns what kind of man Jack really is, he won't stay. Jack's sure of it.

Suddenly the past shows up in a completely unexpected way, testing the boundaries of their old, coasting-along-on-fun relationship. Tony indeed finds that Jack isn't the man he went looking for, but it's too late. There's too much at stake to just walk away. First, though, he has to make sure there are no lies left for Jack to hide behind.

Warning: Readers should be free of any heart condition that may be affected by a hero with an overactive imagination, painful back stories, and hot sex in a variety of athletic positions. Neither the author nor the publisher is responsible for any sudden or frequent urges to have children with Tony Gemetti.

Not Knowing Jack Details

Date : Published December 7th 2010 by Samhain Publishing

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Author : K.A. Mitchell

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Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Not Knowing Jack for online ebook

Ed Davis says

I had a real hard time with this book. I almost quit reading it, which is something I rarely do. In fact several times I hoped Jack's ulcer would kill him. He didn't deserve his kids or Tony. I stuck it out and found myself enjoying it in the end.

Lena♥Ribka says

Audible

I had mentioned it already more than twice and I'm not tired to repeat it again: **I prefer my contemporary romance rather in an audio book format.** Of course, if it has a proper narrator. But honestly, it is pretty difficult to spoil a contemporary MM romance audio book if it's narrated by a pleasant male timbre (with all these *ahs* and *ohs* at the right places), and Jason Winters HAS a pleasant and intensively sexy (when the plot demands) voice. So, under these conditions it is easy to want to listen to the story he tells us.

But there is one more surprisingly aspect to this novel for me: I normally don't like children jumping around my MM characters. It was different here. Kids appeared totally unexpected in the plot (and I assure you, I was not the only person here who was slightly shocked by this fact, though I am not going to give anything away), but they fitted nicely *in the whole mess* whose name is Jack.

To tell the truth, in spite of Jack sounded *being good in bed* during the whole telling (oh yes), I wasn't really fond of him, and I have my reasons, believe me.

Tony was the opposite matter. Unlike his on-and-off partner Tony, who slowly but surely captured my heart totally and utterly toward the end of the story.

A very good MM romance, with the right quantity of all necessary emotions.

P.S *But, OMG, whom dare I kill who is responsible for this cover?! Unacceptable.*

Silkeeeeeereads says

The book was a surprise. It's a well-written, emotional read. Instant families that are all wounded always do something to me. I love the way the kid's father and his boyfriend have to feel their way around to do what is right for the kids and each other. Highly Recommended!

Simon says

I've purchased K.A.Mitchell previously and never been disappointed. "Not Knowing Jack" is inspired. Great

story, great characters. For me personally, the sex scenes become a little repetitive, but I see the point of them, in this novel....it's all about trust. Wish I'd realised that this was book 2 in the series....have now downloaded book 1, "Regularly Scheduled Life". Seem to be stand alone novels however, regardless of the fact that characters from book 1 reappear in book 2. Definitely worth the money.

MsMiz (Tina) says

Lent - by Kindle

Gotta give Tony kudos for sticking with Jack through this book man. Jack was understandably going through a lot, but man sakes Jack, you were an ass!!

Susan65 says

Book (5 Stars) and Audio (3 Stars) reviews:

Review – Book: Not Knowing Jack is the second story in the Ohio series, and one of my all time favorite books. Multiple reads naturally lead to an audio book listen, and even though the audio paled in comparison to the actual book, I still love this story as much as ever.

Tony and Jack are introduced in Regularly Scheduled Life, book one of the Ohio series (a book I loved even more than this one), and I fell in love with the flirtatious bartender, Tony, then and there. Tony has got to be one of the best characters ever developed in a gay romance novel, and I still say “everyone needs a Tony in their lives”. He is a big kid at heart, but is loyal to a fault. There is no one you can trust to have your back more than Tony. Jack learns this the hard way, after he treats Tony like crap and kicks him to the curb, twice, on the same day.

Jack has secrets, and his little white lies (though not very little, at times) are starting to get to Tony. He adores Jack, he can't see himself without Jack, he loves everything about Jack... until Jack becomes a man that Tony never knew existed. I ached for Tony and I wanted to drop-kick Jack in the gonads. Jack, no matter how much he loves Tony, still acts superior and, at times, treated Tony like an unruly teenager. Okay, so matter Tony acts that way sometimes, but still, Jack either wanted Tony as he was or he needed to move on.

I hurt for Jack, too. His story is awful. I know it's common to take your hurt and anger out on the ones you love, but Jack was really lucky that Tony was still there by the end of the book. Each reread still amazes me how awful Jack could be to Tony.

The way Tony handled Brandon, Jack's son, was brilliant. Honestly, the best way to deal with an out of control teenager is to be a bigger and smarter teenager, which Tony excelled at even at thirty. Tony didn't wear kid gloves around Brandon, like Jack did, and in many ways was a much better father figure. Tony is the star of this book in more ways than one. He was the pot smoking flirt, with a naughty mouth, but when push came to shove, Tony was the man that stepped up and kept not only him and Jack together, but created

a better life for Jack's kids, as well.

I usually hate kids in my books, but Tony was able to take that distaste away and keep this book as one of my all time favorites. That's brilliant writing on the part of K.A. Mitchell. As well as her ability write steamy sex scenes. Tony is a real tiger in the sack, rawr.

Review – Audio: I am almost afraid to continue on this audio book path because it seems like the audio can rarely live up to the book. I have read *Not Knowing Jack* multiple times and always seem to love it, and Tony, more and more. However, this audio book just killed me. It is so hard to properly rate an audio without dinging the story, and I will still keep my review as a five star on other sites, but this audio was so far from my reality of Jack and Tony that I would be hard pressed to give it even three stars. The narrator is new to me, and I was really hesitant to use my audible credit not knowing what to expect, but I did it because I loved this series, this book, and this author. I've been hoping for an audio of *A Regularly Scheduled Life*, but now, not so much.

My main issue was the tone of voice used through out the reading. Using a calm tone when the words spoken were "Jack said icily". An icy tone of voice is not similar to one you would use when speaking to a toddler, and that is what I got. No emotion for excitement, sadness, hurt feelings, or anger...it was all kind of monotone and it really got to me. I've come to expect a lot more from my audio's and when all I get is a reading and not a performance it just ruins the experience.

The Blogger Girls

JR says

Well, I just can't get enough of what K.A. Mitchell puts out. This is the second in the Ohio series and yes, I've read it out of sequence again.

This is the story of Jack, a wealthy restaurant owner and Tony a bartender. Tony is younger and cruder, to Jack's wealthy refined persona. They have a fun, hot sex relationship going. Neither wants to admit that they fit together like hand and glove. Nor are they willing to admit that each wants more from the relationship, because they don't quite trust each other enough. Jack has a troubling past that is going to come back and bite him in the ass. Shortly after they move in together, it does just that with a vengeance.

Trust is the crux of this story. It's the one thing that Jack can not give easily. He is too afraid that when the truths such as his health problems are revealed that he will lose Tony. He is too scared to lose the happiness he has found. There is a very complicated plot here, but I'm not going to give it away.

The title does sum up the story very well. It's a dark story that had me welling up a number of times. It was a wonderful journey, one I wouldn't mind taking again. I give it a backyard full of stars.

Dani says

I know from the blurb that Tony is supposed to be this carefree, superficial guy. But that's all telling. The showing is entirely different, right from page one. So there is this strange disconnect with everybody, including Tony TELLING us that he is a commitment phobe - and what I'm reading, his inner thoughts, his actions, suggest the exact opposite.

So, that's strange.

On top of that, oh the melodrama. With the subtlety of a sledge hammer. It ended up being not believable for me.

Hannah says

Although written with K.A. Mitchell's usual competence, *Not Knowing Jack* was not a pleasant book to read. I started it with the assumption that it was a romance, but there was actually very little about it that could be considered romantic. Instead, *Not Knowing Jack* was a prolonged angst-fest with an uneasy HEA tacked onto the end.

The book starts with the main characters, Tony and Jack, already in a relationship. They seem pretty serious - Tony is living in Jack's home - but it soon becomes obvious that Jack is keeping some major secrets from his boyfriend. The skeletons in Jack's closet end up hijacking the plot, diverting attention away from the romantic elements of the story and making for some pretty heavy reading. By the end of the book, I thoroughly disliked Jack, and I was wishing that the story had been about Tony moving out and falling in love with someone else instead.

So why did I give this book three stars instead of fewer? First, because Tony was a great character. He was worth reading about, even though I feel like he got a raw deal with Jack. Second, it really was well written. Even though I was expecting one of Mitchell's sexy romances instead of an uncomfortable drama, I had to admire her handling of the complex situations and emotions she was writing about. It was well done; it just wasn't what I wanted to read.

Qi says

[nice, sappy ending (hide spoiler)]

Karlijn says

In the beginning I didn't feel attached to this story. I don't know, in a way I didn't feel a connection. Weird, because the characters were appealing and I was really curious to their journey. So most of the time it was a steady three stars for me, but the end was so nice and beautiful that I can't give it less than four stars. All the loose ends came together and the way it was done was incredibly smooth and good. After finishing I was sad to leave the MC's and I really hope to read more about them.

“The ring was there to say they were a team, a reminder that they were in this together, almost like a private joke only the two of them got.”

Bark says

4 1/2 stars - I adored the growth in this love story and the Tony & Jack's struggles and obstacles nearly broke my heart but I can't give it a five. It comes close but Jack keeps too many secrets and acts like a real SOB at times. Still, he's perfect for Tony (whom I adored) and I truly felt all the reasons why they were both so desperately in love with each other. Great realistic writing, this one is funny, infuriating, sexy and painful. I'm anxious to read the rest of this author's work.

My favorite quote was this one from Tony early on in the book as he ponders wanting a child, proving that he knows exactly where he stands in the relationship at that point & doesn't really mind. It's both funny and a little heartbreaking.

“You'd make a hell of a dad. You're practically raising me.”

Karen K says

I'm not sure what took me so long to finally read this book because it was fabulous. Tony is just the quirkiest, most endearing, funny character and to top it off, despite how immature he can be, he's emotional and grown-up exactly when he needed to be. Dare I say he acted more mature and adult than Jack a lot of the time - not that I didn't like Jack, I did and I really felt for him and his situation even though he caused a lot of it all by himself. I loved the story and the settling in of the kids and Tony's awesome way of dealing with them. There were a few times I wanted to kick Jack's ass but eventually he let Tony completely into his heart so i'll go easy on him. Have to also say I loved the little flicks of Sean and Kyle who still have a special place in my heart. Great emotional read.

Bubbles Hunty Honest & Direct Opinions says

Agent Hooker Slut's Case Portfolio:

The Assignment: Cougar Claws Sharp; Eyes Sensitive

Contact: Cougar65

Target:

Asssignment: "Read this, Hooker Slut. You will like this one and will LOVE Tony...promise."

Initial Thoughts: It is a dark and dreary evening. I could spend it staring at the davenport again, but I did that the dawn before last. I guess I could try to read this book.

Case Progression Reports:

Day One: Wednesday, June 13th, 2012

2000 hours: Buy the book

2220 hours: Book purchased; \$4.24

2226 hours: Opened Book, 3,814 locations, read dedication, my reaction "Aww how sweet"

Day Two: Thursday, June 14th, 2012

0900 hours: started chapter one

- this Tony guy has weird fantasies about alien abductions and government conspiracies. They remind me of Hooker Slut's own delusions.

- 4% and already switching the names. Unless Jack usually thinks of himself as "Tony"

- 6% and already the first sex scene :(

- 12% tony at his sisters thinking how much more well behaved his and jacks kid would be. (view spoiler)

- 14% sex again :(and yep jack reacted as douchy as I thought he would when what I said in previously spoiler was brought up.

- 26% learn Tony is a pot head and likes to get high in the shed out back. Already don't like he starts drinking beer at breakfast. So far this story is really lame and follows every other book. No communication. Lots of secrets. Giant assface.

- 31% I don't feel anything for these characters. Yeah Tony is inmiture alcoholic/drug addict and jack is a secretive, lieing douche. And I'm ready for them to just break up see no connection between them. They don't even know each other. (view spoiler)That's just fucked up.

- 36% sex again :(still waiting for something interesting to happen

- 54% Tony finally says he's tired of the lying. jack agrees he won't lie anymore. Tony asks any other secrets or anything he's hiding and specifically mentions illnesses. Jack says he's told him everything (view spoiler)

- 56% sex again :(

- 64% sex again :(I fell asleep reading this sex scene :(

- 79% sex again :(

- 87% (view spoiler)

Day Three: Friday, June 15th, 2012

0019 hours:

- 92% it skips a year and is over. That's right the end. I finished. Assignment completed. Official report to be updated later. Never says how is sister took him moving. You know her been single mom and raising two kids and having no other family.

Final Assessment

Well I survived. I actually tore threw the pages and finished in almost one day. Surprising myself. I was debating between two or three stars. Anyway I am going with three stars because although I found first half slow and boring I managed to get through it and mostly liked the second half. Or maybe it was me just having too much fun writing this review.

Having Brandon's pov was more interesting than Jacks and he was 14. I was disappointed it never followed up with a conversation he had with tony about how Tony knew he was gay and stuff. I thought it was implying Brandon was possibly wondering about his own sexuality but this was never mentioned again.

Honestly I don't see why tony likes Jack??? Even by the end it's a mystery to me. He was a lying asshole whole book as you can see in my progress updates above.

Omg the sex! Thank god there was less than this author usually has because it was so lame. Usually this author at least as good sex scenes even I they're too many for my tastes. This one they all seemed the same ole same. One of them actually put me to sleep and I wasn't even tired before that.

Tony. Tony. Tony kind if annoyed me. Especially the first half. I just did t care for him. Second half he was less annoy but still pretty weak. I think I liked the second half because of the kids. I was much more interested in them than either of the two douche adult mcs.

Why the fuck does shitnugget Sean still have cumsore Brandit's phone number?i really hated the parts with Sean.

Seems like after Tonys first visit to his sister where the kids were conveniently used to make tony see how much better his kids would be, then those characters just disappeared. It's written like they such an important part of Tonys life and then after that chapter a few mentions, see them briefly at a BBQ, and then at end moving away without even mentioning what happens to the sister and her kids then.

Reading this it felt like the story just drifted along. There was nothing unique or special about it IMO. Everything felt like I had read it before and You could take pretty much any mm book with a secretive asshole and his doormat lover, mix in a mm book with kids and some other random mm book and you have this.

So yeah two stars for the book's last half and one star for me, for finishing and writing this review.

Gigi says

*Yep, I know that is one big fucking GIF, but this book **SO DESERVES** the extra space and bandwidth for the pretty boys kissing.*

This was my second read of Not Knowing Jack and it was absolutely glorious. Emotional, heartbreaking, full of angst, ridiculously sexy and a beautiful love story. This is a classic and really should be read by *all* M/M romance lovers. You don't have to take my word for it either. The proof is in the GR ratings and reviews. (You can look it up on Amazon and B&N and get more of the same.) Fan-fucking-tastic book.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!!!!
