



Damn Love

Jasmine Beach-Ferrara

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Set in San Francisco and North Carolina, the linked stories in *Damn Love* introduce us to characters struggling with love in all its complicated forms, including a young doctor getting over a breakup with the help of a patient, a newly married gay man who reconnects with his estranged mother, a trio of physicists caught in a surprising love triangle, and a soldier who takes secrets with her to the Iraqi desert. Together, these stories report out from the fault lines of American life, uncertain territory where identity, risk, and desire co-mingle, and where reconciliation can be found in even the most flawed efforts to connect.

Damn Love Details

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Author : Jasmine Beach-Ferrara

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From Reader Review Damn Love for online ebook

Annie says

**** I was given a free copy of this book, in exchange for an honest review ****

I was enthralled in this story from chapter one....This book has many voices and the stories all tie into each other in one way or another...most of these characters are gay/lesbian and have struggled with acceptance by either society or their families....I can not break this down per character because all their voices are very powerful and basically stand as one almost! This story shows how life and love can be cruel at times and finding happiness is hard...but if you can find the freedom to be yourself..you need to take it! This story also deals with addiction and how it destroys families and with the first discovery of the AIDS virus and how that affected the LGBT community....as the title states Damn Love! It is also cruel and hateful sometimes too....VERY POWERFUL LISTEN!

THANK YOU AUDIOBOOKBLAST(DOT)COM

Angie Fehl says

I feel like I read a different book than most here... Guess it just wasn't my thing. This was kind of a snoozefest for me. The writing didn't really suck me in and the stories struck me as pretty dull. Many of the stories incorporate themes such as AIDS/HIV, cancer, same-sex love, gritty sexual scenes, divorce & broken families, depressing environments. All that would have been fine if it just would have been more interesting! I just found myself not really bonding with any character. Also, I read that these stories were all supposed to be linked somehow but after actually reading, I found those links a little weak.

For some reason I was thinking there might be some humor to these stories (I mean, c'mon, gotta admit that's a snarky title!) but nah, not really. SO depressing!

Joel Nichols says

I just liked the writing (3 stars) but I really liked the characters so I gave it four. They seem like people I'd know and their lives are correspondingly mundane. But something about these characters made me want to be with them a little longer. This novel in stories leaves lots of gaps on purpose, and it makes the characters seem even more like old friends you've lost contact with. It and they are also achingly sad.

Ezinwanyi says

This collection of short stories was well written but I wished they ended in HEAs.

Kathy Dempsey says

I need closure.

Craig says

finally I finished this book. This book was interesting but hard for me to complete, the audio was easier. The book exposed us to the life of several couples and individuals. I will recommend the book but be warned every story leaves you wondering what next, but that's how living is really, every day we wake not knowing what's around the corner.

Teressa says

Moving Stories About Love, Loss, and Earthquakes

DAMN LOVE was an artfully written selection of short stories about love, loss, and somewhere in between. Each story was moving and emotional. I especially liked the contrasting theme woven throughout the stories with the earthquake in San Francisco. It added a comparison point of where the people's lives were during their highs and lows in their relationships and lives. These were terrific stories.

I wouldn't be able to pick one story I liked best as I thoroughly enjoyed them all. A few words come to mind. Heart-felt, bittersweet, longing, desire, and reflective. This audiobook was an overall excellent piece of literature involving meaningful subjects and unforgettable characters.

I completely adore JASMINE BEACH-FERRARA's writing style and will look for more of her work in the future. She did an excellent job with this book. Very impressive and highly recommended.

COURTNEY PATTERSON, JO HOWARTH, TARA OCHS, ALDRICH BARRETT, KEVIN STILLWELL, JANINA EDWARDS, KRISTIN KALBLI, and GREGORY ST. JOHN were all amazing. Their performances were absolutely bar none outstanding. Each brought their A game as voice actors in this audiobook. I liked the way this audiobook was put together and would love to hear more books in this genre as well as more from each of these talented individuals. Great, great work!

Audiobook received in exchange for an unbiased review.

Carolyn says

A relationships book, through and through.

I loved the way the characters criss-crossed their way through the stories in this book: interconnected and mostly (it felt) sequential events through their lives (altho not necessarily story to story).

What is a good relationship? A bad one? What's worth saving? What's worth hiding? Whose feelings matter

to you? Who do you not want to hurt? When is it only how YOU feel that matters? Or does that ever happen?

Another Asheville purchase, this book bounces between NC and CA, with the characters almost all having that Southern base.

Mtsnow13 says

MtSnow reviews audiobook 'Damn Love' by Jasmine Beach-Ferrara

Narrator: Courtney Patterson, produced by Listenupaudiobooks

Why I listened to and reviewed this book: we were provided a review copy of this audiobook by a new-to-us audiobook producer in exchange for an honest review.

Blurb:

Set in San Francisco and North Carolina, the linked stories in Damn Love introduce characters struggling with love in all its complicated forms, including a young doctor getting over a breakup with the help of a patient, a newly married gay man who reconnects with his estranged mother, a trio of physicists caught in a surprising love triangle, and a soldier who takes secrets with her to the Iraqi desert. Together, these stories report out from the fault lines of American life, uncertain territory where identity, risk, and desire comingle, and where reconciliation can be found in even the most flawed efforts to connect. - See more at: <http://listenupaudiobooks.com/audiobo...>

First off, I need to say that this book is not a romance. In fact, the stories did not have any real positive resolutions, but show more of human nature and what choices each of these individuals made and how they lived with their choices. The stories are well written, and well narrated, but left me more melancholy and sad than before I had listened.

I will caution you that if you need your stories to have a happy ending this is probably not for you. But, if you are adventurous enough to just want to listen to a well-narrated human interest story, give it a try.

Since I listened to this book vice read it, and there were different narrators for each character, it was hard for me to get comfortable with the pacing or in a flow. But, saying that, it didn't take me long to figure out how these characters somehow loosely related to characters in the previous chapters. The dynamic between the characters was at times strong, and at others, passive.

From the blurb I think I was hoping for some resolution to some big world-shaking problems, and instead what I received was a shot in the arm, a bit of a rough-up, then I had to pick myself up and move on to the next chapter. I did not at any time get to settle down and feel comfortable with these people, and I was given plenty of food for thought.

This story is emotional, well-written and includes different LGBT characters. As a romance, it did not work for me, but as a human interest story, well, let's just say the characters still stick in my mind and my heart today. It is highly recommendable to people who do not mind a non-HEA, or even an HFN.

It was roller coaster ride for my heart and one story in particular had me very sad of what could've been. It was excellently written and relates directly to GLBT characters in all walks of life...

I'm going to include a short synopsis of each loosely interrelated chapter and rate the book overall, as it's not an anthology, just excerpts of regular peoples lives that touch upon each other.

Ch1-Staying Alive - F/F relationship. A doctor's Girlfriend breaks up with her due to her having an affair. She talks about her different patients and interns she supervises, flashbacks to childhood and a beloved uncle who ends up dying a year before, she only finds out by being called to identify his body. She used to wish to be a boy. Loves footballs, and loves her uncle. One of her patients is 'Weasel'. She always hugs her patients at the end of her treatment. It's her final goodbye, just in case. Emily, the girlfriend has a new older girlfriend. Silicon Valley tycoon. The dr spends too many hours at work. She learns to be matter of fact. A banquet of souls, includes the ghosts. The doctor is still secretly in love with a girlhood friend, Keesha.

Ch2-Different Paths, Same Woods - cancer, religious mother (Ruthie) invited to gay sons marriage. Son does not know she is ill. Has a friend, Janet, who tries to talk her into going to the wedding or telling son about her cancer.

Ch3-Custody Bus - hotel employee. Exes Still love each other. They meet in hotel monthly dates. Loneliness personified, flashbacks to childhood memories and rides on this boys for kids of divorced parents. Cassie and Carlos.

Ch4-An Equal And Opposite Force -Two Drs. in love with same woman. Triangle with no resolution. She is married to Jane (Boston) for 6 years. Lucy, student she has affair with. Erin and Miles Lombardo and Raj Reddy -at Berkeley. Erin has affair with a student (Lucy) at MIT. Small connection with first story. Same character from chapter 1.

Ch5-Monkey -Gay lawyer 66 yrs old. Retired. New home being built, staying at a hotel. Castro. Gym, yoga and Pilates. Sex with younger men. Ryan is his personal trainer. Jack is his hairdresser. 35. Duane was his partner that died 4 years previous. Only Jack knows he was known as 'Monkey' by Duane. Flashbacks to love, relationships, history, and life experiences. Talk of 'The Virus'... So melancholy and full of loneliness.

Ch6-Love The Soldier -Keesha flashbacks. She was a Cop . She dated a lawyer, who asked her if she was deploying in the military because she wanted to? Her father is a pastor in Durham. She was a WNBA player. 9/11 changed her mind... She went to NY and Phoenix, but didn't renew her WNBA contract. She had a friend cop get murdered. She's a closet lesbian.

Ch7-Layover - Carlos and Brenda. She is pregnant. She knows Carlos is hooking up with ex wife Cassie at the hotel. He had just left her 2 weeks before. She is at airport. Patient charts. She is a psychologist. Spending Christmas with family. Going back to grandmothers. Her father is dead. Finds out grandma had written her for 30 years, and her mother had intercepted. Her and Carlos had only been together 5 months. His ex wife had asked him to move back in. She is trying to decide whether to have the baby...

Ch8-Hit Me - Weasel (Robbie) keeps secrets from his case manager. He has a girl, Ruthie (case manager) and knows she craves order. Doesn't talk about his HIV status, that he is still using. His father is a blank

stare. Often during their sessions, things break. Accidents 'find her'. He heads to Bart station to wait for his brother Lonnie, to both head to their mothers apt. Lonnie is 41 yrs old. Black (1/2) Mother is Irish. Lou, Weasel's father is Italian. Susan, Lonnie's new girlfriend is Korean. Each week they worry that they will knock on their mother's door and she will be dead.

Ch9-American Martyr -Peter , it was his mothers best friend Janet who finally tells him about the cancer. He hadn't heard her voice in more than 15 years. His mother needed a bone marrow transplant. All been tested, but he hadn't heard from her since before his wedding. Felix asks about where she had grown up since she had both breast cancer and lymphoma? Peter had to do on his own. He was a match..a 4 out of a possible 8. His mom had already been admitted. His marrow, would make way thru his mothers bones for weeks. It would only take him hours to extract.

One of the stories that hit me the strongest was the first one with the Doctor, and her relationship with her uncle. That one drove me to some serious tears of mourning for what could've been, if only...

Then the one with the mother and son, told from the mother's POV in the second chapter then from the son's POV in the last chapter, well, let's say the ending was hard, hopeful, yet not. Very realistic though, and really made me sad that I could see these different people in their own heads not knowing what the other person thinks or feels, set in their ways, with their pride, or preconceived ideas of how they think other people will react.

Overall, this is a very well written compilation of stories that are loosely related and stuck with me long after listening was completed. I was left in an almost grieving state, when the stories were finished, as we are left not really knowing what happens next, and wanting more for these people we are introduced to.

So, for me, it was really just the non-HEA that personally did not work for me, but it is emotional, well-written and includes different LGBT characters. I would highly recommend this audiobook for those that do not mind no HEA and for a realistic snapshot into life's 'what ifs', 'what could've been', and an overall very well-written story that embraces the choices that people make every day, and the consequences of those choices on the rest of their lives and future relationships.

Deedra says

I found this book to be much better than I anticipated.I loved it!Set in two cities at opposite ends of the USA,it tell the stories of many people intertwining their stories and then heading off into each characters path.Narrated by eight different narrators,the weave is mesmerizing.It's a tale of families and love, won and lost.I would love to hear more of these peoples stories."I was provided this audiobook at no charge by the author, publisher and/or narrator in exchange for an unbiased review via AudiobookBlast or MalarHouse dot com"

Sarah says

This book was disappointing on a few levels. It is billed as a collection of linked short stories but the connections are very stretched. I'm not sure how some of them connected at all. Maybe if I was more engaged with the characters, I could have figured it out. There wasn't a lot of depth to the stories, and this was a collection about heartbreak of many kinds - I would contend heart ache is a little more accurate. I should have stopped reading after maybe the 3rd story, but when a book is book is less than 200 pages, it's harder to say when.

Holly Bryant-Simpson says

This one had me crying by the end of the first chapter. Damn Love is a collection of intertwined stories about love, but it is not a love story. Jasmine Beach-Ferrera explores all types of love - gay, straight, romantic, familial, platonic, friendship. All of it.

The audiobook is narrated by a full cast and all of the narrators felt appropriate for their own stories. I was afraid that listening to a different narrator for each story would feel disjointed, but it didn't. The voices worked well next to each other.

This is one that's likely to get a re-listen.

Julia says

I got this as a goodreads giveaway. There were many aspects of the book I liked and then some I didn't. I thought some of the stories focused more on things other than love, which from the description and the title I thought would be the main focus. Maybe that was just me though. I did find some of the characters to be really likeable though.

Angela says

This was one of the best uses of the short story medium that I have read in a long time!

In one short book, Damn Love manages to capture the heartbreak, confusion, loyalty, hurt, and outrageous optimism of romantic and familial love. For those among you who admire the craft of the short story form, Damn Love offers that satisfying mix of narrative that is at once complete and unresolved. Because the stories are loosely woven together, you slowly grow attached to the characters without even realizing you have done so. I found myself sighing throughout (oh joy! Oh heartbreak!) and delayed reading the last five pages by three days because I just didn't want it to end.

Alisha says

I won this book from First Reads and thoroughly enjoyed reading it. The writing drew me in and I wanted the stories to keep going after I finished the book. I felt the characters were so relatable and I want to know what happened to all of them. I loved that this book was basically a snapshot into the interconnected lives of a few individuals. Fantastic writing (though the editor in me has to note a few spelling and grammar errors)!
