



I'll Be the One

Hazel James

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For better or for worse, in sickness and in health, as long as we both shall graduate.

Rachel Wheaton

The senior Economics project is supposed to teach us about real life. Budgeting. Social classes. Careers. I was supposed to plan it all out with my school husband. I didn't plan on actually falling in love with him, too.

But sometimes real life doesn't go according to plans. Sometimes you have to make hard decisions and sacrifices for the person you love. That's what marriage is about, right?

James Tennyson

I've always known things before they happen. Nothing major, like lottery numbers, but it's been pretty useful for things like playing football and dodging clingy girls. I've never been able to see my future. I didn't think much about it, to be honest.

Until second period, when she walked through the door.

Falling in love with her unlocked something inside me. Those little things I know? Now they're big things. Life-saving things. So who do I save? And at what cost? I made a vow to her.

For better or for worse, in sickness and in health, as long as we both shall live.

I'll Be the One Details

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Author : Hazel James

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From Reader Review I'll Be the One for online ebook

Amy says

"The biggest heartbreak in your life shouldn't be the one who got away. It should be the thought of him getting away."

This book completely blew me out of the water! I absolutely loved this book from page 1! The concept was amazing! It evoked so many emotions! I was laughing one minute, and tearing up the next.

I related to this book on a primal level. Gran reminded me of my own gramma so much. It was so nice seeing the relationship between Gran and James!

Kudos to Hazel on an epic debut novel!

Giseli says

I love trying new authors! This is my first book of Hazel James. It started so well! I love the feels the book brings it. James is a perfect book boyfriend, and he is the reason that I liked the book. Rachel, I am not sure, there was something that bothers me. Sometimes she could be petty, slut shaming. I was not a big fan of her. I don't know how to review more without spoiling. I will look for more books from Hazel James.

Jenna Annett says

Why did it have to end that way?! Whyyyy!

Brenda Thompson says

OMG! Loved this book!

1-Click Addict Support Group says

I don't know how to write this review objectively. I mean—it's about my opinion, right? So, let's keep that in mind. Because if I pull my own feelings and opinions out of this review, I'm left with telling you that it's a well written, sometimes charming, cute little story about the purity and intensity of first love. I was completely enchanted by that blurb and that gorgeous cover. I liked James and Rachel a lot and honestly, I adored Avery and Fletcher (and truly, I would read their story in a heartbeat).

That said, I struggled to connect to the love story here. I loved all the side stories, and I loved moments about Rachel and James, but I can't put my finger on if it was the pacing, or the storytelling, or something inside of *me* that just wouldn't open itself up to invest.

This didn't play out the way I hoped it would—at all. I stuck with it because I was intrigued, but I felt a little cheated in the end. And that's all me. I recognize that there is cleverness and ingenuity in the way it played out. I just...my feels hurt right now. And I'm a little angry. And, um, that's not how I like to walk away from books.

So, it's me.

It's not the writing—because like I said, I would read Avery and Fletcher's story in a *heartbeat*.

It's not the story itself—because I recognize that there is a charming, interesting story going on here.

It's that I don't like the way I felt when I turned the last page, and I can't shut my heart up enough to let my brain be more objective. ~ Shelly, 2 stars

Michelle Coltrane says

I couldn't put it down and couldn't be more proud! I can't wait for your next.

Dominus~ says

Reading for Summer Bingo Reading Challenge

Soon as I read the first word in this book I already know this will be amazing. The challenge has officially given me one of my favorite books, congratulation!

James has never stayed one place longer than 6 months all his life. His mother is a hippie free spirit who likes moving around and not settling somewhere bringing her son with him. But suddenly, she decided to start planting her roots.

James, new student, partners up with her seatmate on a school project called Pretend Marriage. And this is how their whirlwind of a story will start.

I've never been pretend married before, but I already know I can never give another girl a ring again. I'm a senior in high school and I'm ruined for life. I want to get married for real and have her babies. I mean, make her have my babies.

I consumed this book in a day. It was just that amazing- yknow those books which you just can't stop reading cos its friggin amazing? This was one of it.

One of my favorite quotes:

Distance does to love what wind does to fire. It extinguishes the weak and feeds the strong. It's up to you to figure out what kind of fire you have.

It was really perfect. Until the very end. I won't have it any other way. (view spoiler)

Colleen Hoover says

I liked this book more than watching boat crashes on youtube. Hazel knows what's up.

Kelley says

It grabbed my attention from the very first page, it sucked me in and then it ended... I just kind of felt like the ending was kind of rushed. I felt like it just ended very abruptly and the ending did not set well with me. That being said, this was a very well written book and I would definitely read more by Hazel. Just not my favorite ending! But the book has stayed with me because I can't quit thinking about it and how it ended!

Abigail Lo says

DNF at 84%

Damn it! This one was shaping up to be a really cute YA high school romance, similar to Puddle Jumping. (But still not quite as cute, because that's impossible.) Rachel was super cool, James was super hot, and Avery is actually me! Yes, there was some drama, but I was willing to let it go because it was just too cute! But the whole time, there were these little, teeny slut-shaming incidents. At first, I brushed them off. I'd already DNFed so many books before this, and I wanted to like this one so much! But eventually, it just got to the point where I was getting extremely uncomfortable, and I couldn't take it anymore.

Slut-Shaming Example #1 (80%):

Rachel's at a concert with Avery, and she's watching James perform. Lexi and Destiny are next to Rachel & Avery, and they're basically drooling over James the whole time. (Rachel is totally bitching about them drooling over him for the whole concert, by the way.) But after the concert finishes, James & Rachel kiss in front of Lexi and Destiny. Here's Rachel's reaction:

"I hear Lexi and Destiny huff behind me then shuffle over to the stairs, clearly disappointed that their boobs didn't do the trick. I love it when the trash takes itself out."

I mean, really? Just because they're wearing revealing clothing, they're trash? Um, no.

Slut-Shaming Example #2 (84%, the one that made me DNF):

Vivien has been trying to steal James from Rachel for about half of the book by this time. She posted a fake video on Twitter showing that James called her beautiful. This was all to get back at Rachel, who'd posted a video of the aforementioned concert on Twitter. (BTW, Rachel also got super bitchy about James calling Vivien beautiful without giving him a chance to explain at all. Like, calm down girl!) So when Rachel goes back to school, she walks up to Vivien at lunch and tells her:

"Brush up on your video editing skills. That way, the next time you try to make it look like some guy is calling you beautiful, people might *actually* believe you."

Not cool, girl! Just because she's a so-called "slut" who happens to dress less conservatively than you doesn't make her not beautiful! Like, what the actual hell! Ugh!

Megan ~The Never Ending Book Basket says

I'll Be the One was an all-around solid debut book by Hazel James telling a story of young love, and a first love that changes everything. From the moment I saw this book's fantastic cover, and after reading its blurb, I knew I wanted to read it. There was just something about the premise of this book that hooked me in, and I was happy to find that from that first chapter I was hooked in even more to what I was reading. Through every page of this book I became more and more pulled into what James and Rachel were sharing, and the two of them definitely gave me a good story to enjoy and feel.

The story in I'll Be the One follows the blossoming love story between Rachel and James, two high school seniors who are put together for a school project. James is the new boy in school, and has moved around his entire life. He's never felt like he had a place to land, but all of that changes when he sees Rachel and gets to know her. Soon he's finally feeling like he has a place to call home, and he can't help but fall hard and fast and oh so deep for Rachel and everything that she is. Rachel is a girl who's never dated or gone out with a guy because her sole focus has always been track and keeping her dad happy. She's never experienced what she starts to feel for James, and it equally scares her and excites her.

Over the course of this book these two get to know one another, and soon start to realize that what they share is something more than either of them expected. Sure they may be young, but what they start to feel and share is very real, and very deep. Soon things become very real for them, and Rachel and James must figure out what they're going to do with all that they're feeling, and with everything that comes their way. The two of them definitely go through a lot in this book, and there are so many emotional ups and downs they must face, but all of that pushes them deeper into everything that they're feeling. What started off as a school project leads these two into something straight from the heart, and soon has them questioning themselves, their wants, and all their hopes for what the future might bring.

I don't want to say much more about the story itself as to not reveal spoilers, but what I will say is that there are definitely many moments in this book that will shock you, and that will probably take your breath away. I definitely had a feeling about some things that would happen, and getting to be there with Rachel and James as everything came to be was captivating in so many ways. Hazel James did a great job of hooking me into their story and investing me in their characters. She made me want things to be okay for them, she made me

want them to find a way to sort through their feelings and find a way, and she made me feel like understood exactly where everything they were feeling and thinking came from. All of that definitely combined to make this a story full of heart, some definite feels, and a love that may be young, but is still oh so deep.

I really liked getting to be in both James and Rachel's heads while reading this book. Hazel James allowed me to understand both of their characters really well, and she gave them both unique voices that were great to get to know. I loved also getting to be their through the evolution of what James and Rachel shared. Their love might have been young, but it still packed the feels and it still felt authentic. I never doubted that those two were sharing something meaningful, and that was great to feel while reading because it pulled me in even more to what they were sharing. Their characters were both mature and wise, yet at the same time they still felt 17, and that worked well for the story and everything I got for them. I found them both to be very believable characters that my heart went to from the start.

I loved so many things about them both too. I loved how caring James was, and how good of a guy he was. I loved that he wasn't afraid to put his feelings and everything else on the line when it really mattered, and I loved that he was always willing to go there. I also loved Rachel. I loved that she was smart, I loved that she came into her own in so many ways in this book, and I loved that she did that with the help of James, but she also did it on her own too. I loved how much Rachel felt and how it all changed her. I loved how these two and their feels changed each other. I loved how together they were, and I loved every moment that reiterated that fact to me again and again.

One of my favorite aspects of this book was getting to know all the supporting characters of this book as well. They definitely made this book even more enjoyable, and they each added a unique piece to the puzzle that was this story. I loved Avery, Fletcher, Sunny, Gran and Grandpa, and they were each so wonderful to get to know. Avery and Fletcher totally stole my heart in a lot of ways too and I loved getting so much of their story in this story too. They definitely added a fantastic layer to this story that I loved. They were all so meaningful and fun and memorable, and that is just part of what I loved about them all.

I'll Be the One was an overall good debut novel that packed a story full of feels, love, and friendship, and the life changing things that can happen when you have all three. This story made me feel, it definitely made me cry, and it put me in it all with Rachel and James as they felt it all together. Hazel James's writing was great, and it definitely created a story I could get lost in, while also giving me two characters to love. I look forward to reading more of her books soon, and getting to experience more of what she offers with her engaging characters. For a debut novel, I was definitely impressed with what she gave me in this book with Rachel and James, and I definitely look forward to whatever she has coming next!

If you're looking for an all around good read, with some feels, and a story of first love that is definitely memorable, then be sure to check out this book!!

Lisa says

"He smiles again, but this one is different. This one has hope behind it. I know, because I'm wearing the same one."

Books like this are why I love Young Adult/New Adult stories. I love stories of first loves. All the little details that you take for granted as you get older. All the glances across the room, the brushing of fingers against each other, the butterflies in the pit of your stomach when that certain person admits they have

feelings for you.

"The heart knows what it wants. It's the head that usually gets in the way."

James has moved around, a lot. When he first sees Rachel Wheaton, everything just clicks into place. He has a way of knowing certain things before they happen, but nothing could prepare him for Rachel. She opened his heart in a way that no one has been able to do before. Lucky for him that Rachel feels the same for him. They may only be high school seniors, but James has found his soul mate in Rachel. In the end, he may have to make the biggest sacrifice of them all.... for Rachel.

"Everyone deserves a shot at growing old with the person they love."

This is Hazel's first book and I hope it won't be her last. She has tapped into a genre that I hold close to my heart and has done it proud. All the little pieces that make this genre special.... she made sure to touch on them all. You have the ultimate book boyfriend in James and a female lead that everyone will love and can relate to in some way. Not to mention an ending that you won't see coming. at. all. (and quite honestly, I'm slightly mad at Hazel James for getting some tears out of me). The plot is set up in a way that has a slow build until you get towards the end. You're given little pieces along the way, that won't completely make sense until the end.

Think you don't like New Adult? Read this one because I'm pretty sure it'll change your mind.

Krystal says

James is just....everything. This book gives you all the feels. It's not just first love, but THE love. You know the one I'm talking about, the one that is forever and soul consuming. James is the first bbf I have claimed in a long time, with this kind of fierceness. You would never think that this is a book by a debut author. Hazel writes like she has been doing this for years, and I can't wait to see what she does next!!!

David Maher says

Perpetual new kid James Tennyson has a gift (if you can really call it that).

He's got a knack for predicting the future. Nothing extravagant like picking next week's lotto numbers, but simple little things. Like whether the next person to walk through a door will be male or female. Whether she'll be short or tall. Whether she'll be blonde or brunette. Those sorts of things he gets right much more often than not.

What he never saw coming though, was Rachel Wheaton, and how she would change his life, nor how he, and his gift, would impact hers.

Capturing all of the needless angst and drama of high school, complete with cliques, social outcasts, and that one project that has more of an impact on your life than anyone could have ever imagined, Hazel James' endearing debut *I'll Be The One* really grabbed me.

I loved how the two main characters, and most of their contemporaries struggled with the innate dichotomy between the desire to blend in and being unique, how several of them had contentious and tumultuous relationships with their parents, and how each was somewhat hopeful, even eager about the prospect of falling in love while being wary of whether their emotions were "the real thing" bordering on despair over whether they'd ever really find true love.

For me, all of that combined to give the story, which with James' abilities borders on the supernatural, an air of authenticity that grounded it without it becoming too fanciful.

Gripping to the very last page, I powered straight through the easygoing prose effortlessly and fell in love with the characters. Just a gorgeous read that I'm sure I'll come back to and read again.

Kelly Spaulding says

I just finished this book. I really enjoyed the authors writing style. She made the characters very real and like able. It was a good story and an easy read. I look forward to reading more of her work in the future.
