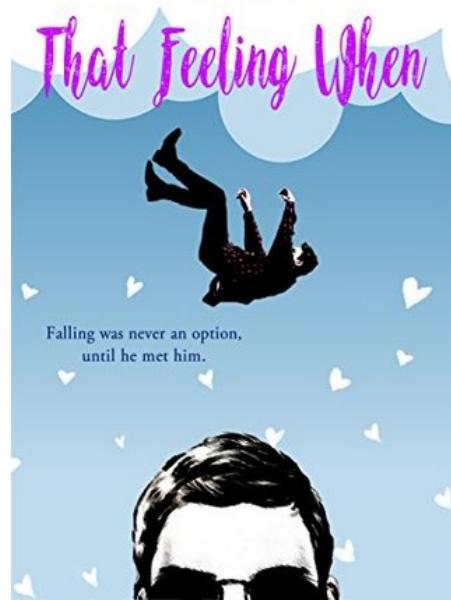


S. M. James



That Feeling When

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That Feeling When S.M. James

Dance Academy reject, Archie Corrigan, resents the stereotype guy ballet dancers are gay. Because he isn't. At all. Forced to reassess his life goal at Camp Crystal Cove, it's by sheer dumb luck he meets Landon Summers, who turns everything Archie was sure of into chaos.

Poor boy turned teen heartthrob, Landon Summers, is the name on everyone's lips. With his unexpected leap to fame, his agent advises him to keep his bi status on the down low. Not a problem! Until Landon meets Archie.

Their unexpected friendship leads to an inevitable kiss, but their moment is caught in high definition and used as fuel for blackmail. If the truth gets out, Landon's career could be over, and Archie will be forced to acknowledge the one thing he's fought to deny.

But how do you go back to your average life once you've experienced That Feeling When ... you're finally happy?

That Feeling When Details

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Author : S.M. James

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From Reader Review That Feeling When for online ebook

J.S. says

Thoroughly enjoyable read!

Archie's a snarky, closed-off grouch. He has an overbearing father whose name everyone knows. He really doesn't want to be at camp. And he's straight, no question of it. Damn the stereotype that all guy ballet dancers are gay, that's 100% not him!

Landon's a confident, warm-hearted optimist. He's worked hard and sacrificed much for his success. He feels blessed to be where he is, even if the homesickness is a constant, debilitating ache in his chest. And he's comfortably bi, but heaven forbid his legion of fans discovers this.

In theory, their vastly different worlds should have made them incompatible.

In practice, their differences complement the best from each other.

This love story starts out on a sharp kick of animosity, banters through a tentative friendship, hits some rocky tension, knocks some major feels off-kilter, and then, finally, hard-won but inevitable, lands on a most beautifully satisfying HEA.

Archie wasn't always all that likable, but his internal monologue sure delivered entertainment. Landon was an absolute sweetheart from start to finish and his crippling self-doubt masked in confidence was so relatable.

The scenes of the two getting to know each other and working to understand each other were some of the best.

The added mystery element really upped the drama.

And witnessing Archie's grey world change into vibrant colour thanks to Landon's patience and affection had me melting.

I recommend this to everyone who loves a good-story-well-told and is not dead inside.

Many thanks to Gay Book Promotions and S.M. James for gifting me an ARC in exchange for an honest review

Roxanne says

"Bi. Calling me gay erases who I am."

I hate giving a book 2 stars because it looks bad - **but it isn't**.

Honestly, the amount of books I dnf is a bit terrifying. So me making it to the end of the book means something.

While I quite enjoyed this, it felt a bit too insta for me. There wasn't really enough of a foundation in their few interactions for the intensity of feelings.. but sometimes when I read YA I feel like that, and it could be the book or it could be that I'm not really in the target audience anymore (sobs).

Archie is so badly in denial and absolutely terrified. I wish his love for dancing was spoken about a bit more,

it felt a little like an afterthought as something to add to the story instead of who he was.

Landon is a famous actor stuck in a foreign country who misses his family. I also felt that the big risks he was willing to take felt a bit contrived for how much time they'd spent together/the basis of their relationship in light of what he had sacrificed to get to where he was.

One day you will look back and realize it's not the whats but the whos that bring value to life.

You can follow your thinks or you can follow your feels.

Barb ~rede-2-read~ says

ARC provided by the publisher through Scattered Thoughts and Rogue Words in exchange for an impartial review.

That feeling when...you realize you need to read the blurb to figure out what's going on.

I may be in the minority, but I just didn't care for this book. It was okay at best. Partly, because of the use of present tense and first person POV, but mostly, I didn't get the attraction between a movie star of unknown age and a 17-year-old camper.

I finally read the blurb after I was over a quarter of the way through because I just didn't get why an actor, whose age is never mentioned, would fall for a teen. According to the blurb, Landon Summers is a teen heartthrob, but his age is never mentioned in the story. He does state, at one point, that legal age for drinking in Australia is eighteen so when he offers a drink to the 17-year-old he has a crush on, he jokes that his trailer can be the Australian embassy. To me, that means he's over eighteen.

The story also indicates he's done three seasons on a teen show and he's doing the movie for a teen audience and it's filming at the camp where 17-year-old Archie and his twin are attending. We know Landon is on his own in Hollywood as his parents and siblings are still down under. Correct me if I'm wrong, but my math brain makes him a minimum of eighteen or nineteen, more likely twenty or twenty-one. And that just doesn't float for me with his crush on and "insta"love for the formerly straight, now questioning, teen. More food for thought: Archie and his sister are there to improve their SAT scores but have apparently applied for colleges already because Archie has received a rejection from the dance academy he wanted to attend. That makes me believe they are going to be high school seniors. If true, I just don't get this "romance" at all.

Landon is an okay character, but his decisions and worries seem rather childish. Most of his friends and family know he's bi but coming out for someone has the potential to ruin his career. His behaviors in those instances are teen-worthy, but again, no age is specified. Archie, however, is worse with his worries about his father's ambitions for him and his statements about not wanting to be both gay and a dancer. And he's totally clueless as to why he's attracted to Landon. Honestly, given the first person present tense of the story, I felt as if I were reading a girl's diary.

I honestly don't have anything good to say about the story, though I made a commitment to go to the end, where we discover the guys are finally going to spend some time together as more than friends. There were so many holes in the story and so much of it made me squeamish about Landon's age that the most I can say is it was okay. Two stars.

SD Jericho says

4.5

I'm not sure that I would refer to this book as strictly a romance. There was just so much more to it – parental drama, self-discovery, fear, prejudice on so many levels and last, but certainly not least, understanding and accepting the fact that accepting and liking yourself first is always the most important thing.

This book brought back so many feeling memories for me – the intensity, uncertainty, fear and utter mindless exhilaration of that first deep overwhelming emotion for another person. There's a part of your heart that never forgets (and never really recovers) and a book like this, certainly triggers those heart muscle memories.

Love is never easy; sometimes it's that hard rolling boil with water hurling itself out of the pot that you need to be able to cook spaghetti and sometimes it's that very gentle simmer, so gentle that all it has are a few stray and random bubbles to assure you that there is heat (a heat perfect for melting chocolate). Cooking analogies make sense to me – whatcha gonna do?

In this case, Archie and Landon are at both of these levels of heat at different times of the book which to me makes the journey of their relationship so realistic. It isn't about whether a boy likes girl or a boy likes boys, it's about two souls finding each other at just the right, completely unexpected time. It's beautifully written, even the drama and angst and the emotion is so well communicated that I found myself holding my breath at times and giving into a tear or two at others.

My feeling about these MC's is that both, at heart, are introverts and they deal with it on their public faces in different ways.

Archie comes across as very closed off, almost permanently mentally sneering at those around him. It could make it difficult to like him from the beginning but I felt very strongly that I understood him and his behavior – he lives in the shadow of a larger than life father, where people hear his last name and their eyes go big and light up with possibilities, he has aspirations that his father doesn't approve of and feels like his dreams are beyond his reach. He has kept so much of himself and his feeling so deeply locked up inside of him, not even trusting his twin sister with his real thoughts and emotions and he really only appreciates people when he can be sure that they are authentic, because he's a boy who has had enough fake.

For him, no one is more real than Landon. Which is ironic since Landon is starring in a movie and playing more than just that role. Landon has to keep movie executives, agents and fans happy and while there's a smile plastered on his face, it takes its toll on him. He wasn't born for the Hollywood life and while he loves acting, it's the roles off the screen and the rules he must follow that makes life difficult for him.

Archie has defensive walls up so high from a lifetime of people wanting to use him for his connection to his dad while feeling like the family disappointment where his dad is concerned but even that feeling of being a disappointment to his father doesn't stop him from wanting the dreams he wants for himself even as he tries to push it deeper within himself. Landon is friendly (most days :-)) and has a warmth and generosity of spirit that comes of a lifetime of being loved and accepted unreservedly by his big family but even that spirit doesn't take away his self-doubt and fear. With Archie, his soul found a kindred spirit.

I would never call this book cute. I feel that the word takes away from the depth of the content. It's a

beautiful look at two boys who are trying against difficult odds to understand and accept who they are in spite of and because of all the hurdles in their lives. It's not just the love story, it's also about both of them needing to figure out how to grab the future that they want for themselves individually too.

Archie may have been struggling with his sexuality in this book (because it's the one thing he was most adamantly sure that he didn't have to even think about) but Landon was also struggling with his identity and how the image he has to portray was at cross purposes about who he had accepted himself to be.

There is a real depth to their relationship and my romantic heart feels that once that choice is made, that they'll both be willing to do the work to make it work for the long haul. I loved that the Main Characters were gay but were not written in a typical camp way as people, when taking the easy way, are often inclined to do when writing gay characters. It was very respectfully written. This story could've happened this way even with a straight couple.

There is a scene towards the end that made me sad that the author had gone there. It was a disappointing and unnecessary action that would've made some sense at an earlier part of the book, but not at that point, especially when one considers where that specific MC's head was at in that moment. It was as I said, disappointing and I nearly skipped over it.

The thing is though is that that particular moment was a necessary catalyst for some widespread healing of relationships and so I question the .5 I want to deduct, even while wishing it could've been handled a different way.

All in all, it was a beautiful, fun, compassionately well-written book with a story that gratefully had the opportunity to be told.

Thank you SM James for the voice.

Elaine White says

I absolutely devoured this book!

Truthfully, it's been on my watch list for a while now, but I always convinced myself to get other priorities first. What was I thinking?

Luckily, book 3 in the #lovehim series came up for review so I couldn't resist convincing myself that I just had to read the first 2, before I started. And I'm so glad I did.

I'm not usually a fan of 1st person, present tense, but it really worked for this book. Along with the gorgeous presentation, Archie's natural snark, and the most adorkable teen romance you've ever seen, there wasn't anything I didn't love about this book. Nothing.

There was a sweet and tender start to the romance, after much snark and teen angst, and it completely sucked me into the teen, camp, romance feel of the novel. The slow realisation of self, the subtle chemistry, the self-discovery. It was all so beautifully done. The awkwardness of teenagers was so brilliantly written that it took me straight back to being in high school.

Landon was a complicated mess; Archie was sweet and lost; Landon's mother was incredible. Owen and Brittany, Kelly and Meredith, were incredible supporting cast. I loved the struggles over self - being aboriginal, being gay, being confused, being famous - and the logical fear that what they had might only last

as long as the camp did.

I cried. I loved it. It was perfect. Adorkable. Sweet. Ridiculously beautiful. And exactly what I needed.

That Feeling When...is an adorkable story of young love, blushing romance, self discovery, and growing up, wrapped in a summer camp, teen angst, and the absolutely awful hormones of teen life. I can't wait to read more.

~

Favourite Quote

"And there he goes, holding my stare for that beat longer than he probably means to before letting loose this adorable, little smile. I'm putty. Just a gloopy, gooey mess. This guy is a menace."

Joyfully Jay says

A Joyfully Jay review.

4.5 stars

S.M. James creates the perfect setting for a coming out story with the release of That Feeling When. Not only a love story, but also a novel keen on exploring the idea of discovering who you really are and realizing that you must push back at not only society's preconceived notions about being gay, but also your own. Archie struggles with his fear about being gay, not just because he worries it will make his already distant feeling parents angry, but also because he can't endure adding to what he perceives as their growing disappointment in him and his lack of focus over a future career path. He doesn't want to take on the family business and follow in his father's footsteps, but he also knows that dance may not be the career he hopes it could be.

Being rejected by his first choice in dance schools still smarts and when he arrives at camp, he is already determined to be miserable. Then he sees Landon Summers and his belly does this strange flip flop thing and then he accidentally kisses the guy back and then runs—as fast as he can away from the idea that he may be gay. Archie is aces at running from himself and often simply loses himself in his music until he can cope with all the conflicting feelings inside. This time the conflict is a living, breathing, gorgeous, kind, sweet boy—and Archie is doomed.

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

Shannon says

4.5*

That Feeling When is a really cute, very sweet coming of age love story that highlights the ups and downs teens go through as they traverse that overwhelming stage right before becoming “full-fledged” adults. It also brings to light the real struggle many deal with when it comes to their identity, especially in regards to their sexuality, as Archie does in this book. Lots of uncertainty and questioning, and worry.

I really enjoyed Archie and Landon’s story, they are both such wonderful characters. They are very different- Landon is confident in who he is, has a very awesome and supportive family, while Archie is just starting to finally learn and accept things about himself, thanks to his developing friendship with Landon.

There were some ups and downs as their relationship moved past the point of friendship, especially when a private moment is threatened to be exposed.

Archie’s uncertainty was a bit of a sticking point as well. I felt for Archie, as he was really trying, but when everything you’ve believed about yourself is suddenly up in the air, it’s kind of hard to wrap your head around. And sometimes you do stupid things with the best of intentions.

For Archie, what was supposed to be one last summer at camp to figure out his future, turned out to have more of an impact on his future than he could have ever imagined.

Catherine Taffy says

I received a complimentary copy of this book via Voracious readers only.

I loved this book, it was absolutely incredible. I loved the characters, how Archie was so closed off and yet slightly more open with London and I like how it wasn’t all sunshine and rainbows from the beginning and how the book showed and explained the struggle that Archie went through. I also loved how London was so outgoing yet he still seemed to have insecurities.

I loved the ending of the book and how beautiful it was. I will read anything more about the characters in this book it was awesome

Scooby2 says

This is my first read by S.M. James and I’m so glad I took a chance. I really loved Landon and felt so much for Archie as he came to terms with himself and his sexual orientation. I thought this book was a good coming of age love story. Although I didn’t care for the cliché part towards the end, that’s why I took off half a star. If you are looking for a friendship, coming of age, thought provoking love story, then I recommend “That Feeling When”, I don’t think you will be disappointed.

I give this book 3.5 stars.

I received a copy of this book from Gay Book Promotions and SM James and received no compensation for my honest review.

Carra says

This is a new-to-me author, and I was pleasantly surprised with what was a very well written coming of age story. The characters had depth, the story flowed nicely, and my interest was captured right away and held to the very end.

Archie is in a position that many young adults find themselves, denying he could be anything but straight (and getting annoyed with people who assume he isn't because he is a dancer), but then questioning things due to feelings that he develops for Landon. It's confusing for him, and the path that follows is his journey of self discovery. Landon on the other hand knows he is bisexual, but keeps that fact out of public knowledge due to his job as an actor. They go from strangers to acquaintances to friends, then finally to more once Archie realizes the truth about himself.

Things aren't simple though, and with the blackmail threat the angst level shoots up. It's really good to see the support both Landon and Archie have from friends and family, in particular with Archie's parents. While the heavily positive attitude from most of the characters in the story may not reflect actual real-world experiences even in this day and age, it is refreshing to read about, and puts their relationship in an encouraging light—something young adult readers need to show them that not every coming out experience will be fraught with trouble.

So often relationships in YA stories lack a feeling of permanence since the characters are young enough to be still finding their way and discovering who they are...That Feeling When may not be a full HEA because of that, but it still is a more than satisfying ending that made my heart sing, and does point toward a bright future for Landon and Archie together.

That Feeling When was a 4.5-star read for me, and I highly recommend it—especially for mature young adult readers who need positive stories regarding coming out and coming of age.

Wendy Livingstone says

This is a sweet and entertaining story about 2 boys who are finding themselves. Archie is a dancer, who is the son of a very privileged man, but is desperately struggling with his sexual orientation. Landon is a young actor, who comes from a very loving family, and is very comfortable in being bisexual. This is a well written story and the moral of the story is accepting yourself as you are, and not others expectations. I was intrigued and hooked throughout, and look forward to reading more of this authors' work!

Karen Meeus says

Compelling, thought-provoking and immensely enjoyable!!
I was hooked from the first page and just couldn't put this book down!

This is a great coming of age story, with two young men finding love and friendship where they least expect it. The book focuses on Archie and Landon, but their interactions and friendships with the secondary characters are very important too, giving the book a similar feel to that found in the wonderful "Simon vs the Homo Sapiens Agenda".

The blackmail plot and its fallout give the story some added tension, upping the stakes for the MC's.

Archie has a bit of a chip on his shoulder when he arrives at the camp, and his snarky internal dialogue makes for very entertaining reading. We sense his unhappiness, but the reasons for it remain unclear for a while. Archie closes himself off from everyone, even his twin sister, maybe unconsciously afraid of truly being known by anyone, even himself.

Landon/Yarran is extremely lovable!! Very much the handsome boy next door, hardworking, humble and so very decent! His mum raised him right! Landon's just so sweet!!

I loved his connection to his family and how he clings to his mum and the principles she instilled in him, even in the face of a decidedly grumpy Archie.

The Australian accent was brilliant! I simply couldn't get enough of the Oi's, mates, barbie and the bloody this or that!

I really loved that we got an Aboriginal character "in the lead" in this book, especially one with a very successful career.

The author leaves us bread crumbs to follow throughout the story, only giving us more insight into Archie and Landon in the most subtle and piecemeal way.

This challenges the reader and helps us join Archie on his road of self-discovery.

I loved the conclusion of the book!

It ends in a very romantic, optimistic fashion. Utterly delightful!

Teresa says

Title: That Feeling When

Author: S. M. James

Publisher: May Books

ISBN: B07DTB7MJ4

Buy Link: <https://www.amazon.com/That-Feeling-W...>

Reviewer: Teresa Fallen Angel

Blurb:

#LoveHim 1

Archie Corrigan is an angry teen, pigeon-holed by a stereotype.

Landon Summers is a Hollywood heartthrob, whose role doesn't end when the cameras stop filming.

When the two guys meet at Camp Crystal Cove, they have literally nothing in common. Despite their differences, Archie can't help but be enthralled by Landon's confidence, and Landon has never met anyone so completely immune to his charms.

Their unexpected friendship has them both revealing parts of themselves they've tried to keep hidden, but accepting the truth isn't always easy.

Archie and Landon have to decide.

Stick to the safety of the pretend lives they've built up?

... Or give in to That Feeling When they're finally happy?

Total Score: 5/5

Summary:

Archie has spent his life trying to live down his father's fame and focus on what he loves, dancing. He lost a bet forcing him to attend Camp Crystal Cove, but he never expected that the place he least wanted to be was where fate was leading him. Landon is trying his best to get into the character he is playing, but things are just not going his way. That is until Landon sees Archie and unlike everyone else Archie doesn't fall all over him. Archie knows who he is and isn't impressed about him fame. Now Archie isn't as disinterested as he appears, but his life has way to many complications as It is. Wanting to be a ballet dancer has people questioning his sexuality without giving them more ammunition. Things become more complicated when Archie receives a picture of them and a threat to stay away or the picture will be released. It is difficult enough for Archie to decide where his life is going on top of his growing feelings for Landon. Landon knows it would be best for his career to keep a lid on his feelings for Archie, but some things just can't be contained. I loved how it was Archie and Landon's differences where what initially brought them together, but that was only the beginning to their story. Archie never wanted to be in the spotlight making him question what he was feeling for Landon.

This is a wonderful story that shows first love can be both simple and complex first love is depending on how you look at it, but it is never boring.

Samantha Jayne Grubey (ABookHaven) says

<https://abookhavenx.wordpress.com/201...>

Sarah says

3.5 stars - I was given a copy of this book to read and review for Wicked Reads.

This is a cute coming of age romance. When we first meet Archie, he is a spoiled, miserable rich kid who somehow manages to resent spending his summer at a luxurious camp. Landon is a young actor filming a movie at the summer camp. He's a long way from home and he's lonely and homesick.

Landon is instantly likeable. Despite his film star status, his loneliness and his self doubt make him relatable. Archie is a more difficult character to like. His entitled apathy and his caustic observations at the start of the story are irritating. However, I love the way Archie grows into himself in this book. Events and interactions prompt self-reflection and genuine growth. Much of the book focuses on Archie growing up and figuring himself out. I found myself liking Archie as a person right about the time Archie starts to like himself.

While I enjoyed Archie and Landon's story, I felt there was something missing in the romance between them. I feel like we are told about the connection or the chemistry between Archie and Landon but we never really see or feel it. I felt Archie's personal growth and Landon's newfound confidence but I didn't really

feel any passion in the connection between them.

This story fits somewhere between young adult and new adult writing. Archie is seventeen or eighteen and Landon is probably a few years older. But because of the summer camp setting - and Archie's complicated relationship with his parents - this feels most like a teen romance. I didn't love the summer camp setting - the kids feel too old to be campers rather than camp staff and the camp environment lacks the sense of joy and nostalgia that I usually love in YA summer camp stories. I found it odd that while the blurb makes Archie's dancing seem like a huge part of the story, it is only mentioned a few times.
