



One Among Men

Connie Almony

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Christian Fiction / Romantic Suspense / Women's Fiction

Her job requires she live with 500, hard-partying, college guys. Only one will lead her to danger.

Samantha Hart is looking for godly purpose, like her missionary best friend, but is forced to take a job as the resident director of the all-male party dorm at the major state university where her prodigal past haunts her. She must avert the pitfalls of a woman in her position as well as the dangerous forces that threaten her life.

Chris Johnson, a rock guitarist, has come back to school as a music major, and finds himself in a business relationship with the ruthless supplier of an on-campus drug ring. He's intrigued by the lady RD, while learning more about his musical gift and the God who gave it to him. Can he manage his two worlds without risking Samantha's life?

From the author of "At the Edge of a Dark Forest."

Though this work is set at a completely FICTIONAL campus, "Maryland State University," ten percent of current author income from it will go to Campus Crusade for Christ (Cru) at University of Maryland College Park.

One Among Men Details

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From Reader Review One Among Men for online ebook

Jess Schira says

Though I don't usually read Christian romance, One Against Men had an intriguing plot so I decided to give it a whirl.

The main character Sam, is rebuilding her life after a series of problems, some self-created and other created by circumstances out of her control. To help finance her continuing education, she accepts a position as an RA in an all guys dorm, which also happens to be a dormitory that has a rather seedy reputation.

One of the residents in the dorm is none other than Chris Johnson, an older college student who loves music and runs with a seedy group of friends.

While I found Christ to be an enjoyable character, I did have to suspend my sense of reality when it came to Sam and some of the choices she made.

While I found the start and the ending of the story to be quite enjoyable, there were several places in the middle where things just seemed to drag. There were scenes that I felt could have been tightened up and a few places where the interactions Sam had with other characters failed to move the story forward. All things considered, One Against Men is a pleasant read and is a great choice for anyone who is looking for a clean, Christian novel.

Susan Snodgrass says

Samantha has taken a position as Resident Director of a men's dormitory at Maryland State University. She's the only woman in 500 men! What was she thinking? Chris Johnson intrigues her from the start, but he's with a bad crowd and she's trying to keep her walk with the Lord secure. Something, however, just doesn't seem right about the guy, but what is it?

I totally enjoyed this book. It scared me that there was one woman among so many men and I didn't know what to expect. The reader can pay attention and have their own walk with the Lord strengthened. The writing is good and also the premise works very well. There is suspense, too, just under the surface at all times, then it explodes.

One character I loved is the Preacher. I'd love to spend some time with this guy. He totally is wonderful.

I look forward to more from this author.

I received a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review, which I have given.

Nancy L. Toole says

Very good book!!

This book is very well written and held my attention all the way through. I haven't enjoyed a contemporary Christian book this well in years! I'm looking forward to more from this author in this series!!

Kara says

After reading a great review from a fellow blogger (thanks Amber! :), I decided to try this one and proceeded to devour it all in one sitting! It has officially become a new favorite. I particularly enjoyed how real and true to life it felt. Sam struggled with her insecurities and doubts, yet never let them overtake her completely. So many of the other characters were much the same, especially Chris. The slow peeling back of each of their layers was well done, proving that there was so much more to them than any initial impression. Ms. Almony also didn't hesitate to cover a variety of serious subjects, but always in a careful and respectful manner. The emotions of Sam and Chris constantly flowed through their every action and watching the two of them together? Ah my heart. I loved their slow and sweet romance! I was also impressed with how Sam consistently stayed true to her beliefs and how everyone around her came to admire that. A little suspenseful, a little romantic, and a lot engrossing, this is one story well worth reading! It's part of a series, but have no fear of dreadful cliffhangers. Just watch out for anxiousness for the next installment!

Amber Stokes says

The tagline of this book intrigued me: "Though she lives with 500 hard-partying college guys, only one will lead her to danger." Talk about a provocative premise for contemporary Christian fiction! I just had to read it - and I quickly got sucked in to the life of a young woman trying to hold her own and cling to faith in a place where respect is sorely lacking and danger is very real. The suspense keeps the pages turning, for sure, but it's the authenticity of the struggles, doubts, relationships, and redemption that make this engaging read a meaningful one. And the unique romance with its twists, turns, and depth? Encore!

Carrie says

"One Among Men," by Connie Almony, is a romantic suspense novel in which the female protagonist, Samantha (Sam) Hart, manages to become the resident director for an all male dorm at the fictional Maryland State University. She had originally applied for a similar position for the university's female dormitory, and cannot understand how she ended up with the assignment to Calvert Hall which houses 500 male students. Besides earning her graduate degree, she must oversee a staff of assistants as part of her duties in managing Calvert Hall and its inhabitants, which at times, requires her to discipline residents who break the dormitory rules, end up overly inebriated, or use banned substances on site. She finds it challenging to win and maintain the respect of the male residents who don't regard her in the same way as they would towards a male resident director. On top of that, there is a rapist loose on the campus who the police are trying to apprehend and arrest.

Chris Johnson, a music major, and one of the resident students who also has a job working as a go-to fix-it guy for the university's Facilities Department, meets Samantha when he comes to check on the outlets in her apartment. Actually, it would probably be more accurate to say that he meets...and blocks... her elbow to his gut, and a palm thrust in his face, in addition to backing away from a stomp meant to crush his foot. It takes a

few minutes to convince her that he is not the rapist.

Sam is not the only one who is caught off guard by the other's appearance. Chris can't believe that the university is actually putting a female in charge of a building filled with college-aged men who would see her more as meat rather than as a serious authority figure. However, as the days and weeks pass, he becomes intrigued and fascinated with her; he can see that she cares about the residents in the dorm.

Sam can't quite figure Chris out. Once she recovers from the scare of their first meeting, she senses something different about him; he seems older and more mature than the rest of the students at Calvert Hall. She also wonders about his ability to block all the self defense moves that her uncle, a police officer, had taught her. The looks and words of encouragement that he gives her contrast with his seemingly irresponsible behavior; he hangs out with the resident drug dealer at Calvert Hall, and consumes huge quantities of alcohol every night. Rumours start to fly about him selling for the drug dealer, but she can't stop her attraction to him. She is also puzzled by the alternation of warmth and distance in his behavior towards her.

Chris also appears to be quite a mystery to us as readers. We are privy to his thoughts; we know that he has secrets to hide and that he wants to resume another life that he once led. We also know that he harbors anger against his father, who used drugs and abandoned his family in order to pursue a career in music. He is also a bit resistant to the Gospel, although Preacher (aka Clive), one of Sam's assistants, has been sharing the message with him. Preacher knows that there is definitely something strange about Chris. He sees that Chris is a leader, yet follows a known drug dealer. He is also aware that Chris has been looking out for Sam's safety and has taken measures to keep that from being made widely known.

Throughout the first half of the novel, the author drops a trail of crumbs, hinting about what Chris is really doing. We are finally informed outright about this midway through the novel, and by this time we realize that Chris is facing battles on several fronts, in his relationship with the drug dealer, in distancing himself from Sam, whom he is finding harder to resist, and in facing the challenges that Preacher keeps tossing at him over issues of faith in the Lord. Will Chris survive with both his physical and spiritual lives secure? Will he be able to convince Sam to accept him romantically when she finds out what he really is?

At first, I wasn't quite sure if the central plot of the novel was going to involve the capture of the rapist, but instead, it really is about Chris and what is happening to him spiritually. Sam impresses Chris with how she lives out her Christian life in spite of all the resistance to her leadership at Calvert Hall by its residents. Conversations with Preacher, and lots of tunes from the band, Third Day, help Chris to come to a place where he is open to attending a church to see what Christianity is about.

I thought that, "One Among Men," for a self published novel, was pretty good. I admire how the author laid out the plot and how she resolved most of the plot threads. The novel is written from several third person points of view, although the two major ones are those of Sam and Chris. There is quite a large cast, but it is fairly easy to keep track of who is who, and what their significance is to the story. I felt that most of the characters, even the nasty ones, were fairly believable, although the character of the drug dealer, Drake Dixon, might have had a touch of being a little over the top in his nastiness and unpleasantness, but this didn't really detract from the story.

The novel also offers a look at campus life, especially what might happen in an all male dorm, besides the issues of drug and alcohol abuse, and how some college aged men might view women.

I enjoyed reading, "One Among Men," and hope to read more about life at Maryland State University in the sequels, "An Insignificant Life," and, "Flee From Evil."

This review is also posted on my blog
<http://whatisreading.blogspot.ca>

Kym McNabney says

If you enjoy faith based novels with drama, humor, romance and suspense you will enjoy ONE AMONG MEN by CONNIE ALMONY.

A new Christian with a past, Samantha Hart is faced with memories that plague her. When she takes a job as a resident director of an all male college dorm, she quickly discovers she has her work cut out for her. One resident, Chris Johnson, AKA Music Man, is particularly challenging. Can she trust her heart with the guy she can't seem to figure out?

Chris Johnson is a gifted guitarist who has returned to school as a music major, but also works on campus as a facilities guy. Upon his first encounter with Sam, the new RD, sparks sizzle in the air. Not good. At least in Sam's eyes. He's younger, a resident assistant, and she is his boss. Not to mention his "friends" are known drug users. No. Not good at all.

*Please see my profile for more information on this review.

Chris says

A must read! One Among Men She is the "boss" in the men's dorm, she has all of the uncertain am i doing this well feelings, And she stays close to her Lord.....She did a great job, through very sticky problems Absolutely a page-turner.....

5 star book

I was given this book by the author for my honest review

Noela says

In 'One Among Men', Connie Almony has produced an amazingly compelling and gritty tale of a woman's challenging journey towards discovering purpose, whilst working and living in an all-male dorm crawling with testosterone, alcohol, and drugs.

The male dorm was not her first choice, but it was the only position she was offered. So with some

trepidation, Samantha Hart (Sam) accepts the job as Resident Director at the University where she once attended but would prefer to forget. Now much wiser and with a growing faith, Sam hopes she can make a difference while protecting her heart and beliefs, and prays that her ADD doesn't impede her work.

Chris Johnson, a gifted guitarist, has come back to school as a Music major, but also works on campus as a Facilities guy. When he fixes Sam's power points, she is surprised at the attraction he sparks in her. After all, he's younger, and being a resident assistant, that made her his boss. And she especially can't get past the fact that his friends are known drug users. So why is it he continues to intrigue her, and yet confuse her by frequently coming across as a Jekyll and Hyde character?

Although rewarding, this new job Sam has taken on is in a risky environment and leaves her vulnerable at times. Aside from way too many males in her building, there's also an unidentified serial rapist that haunts the University and a drug ring operating in the school that has deadly connections. Will Sam be risking everything... her career, her faith, her heart... her life? Might Sam ever find the respect and purpose she's looking for?

With a cast rich in personality, and suspense that will hold you captive, this deeply real story is one that will stay with you. The romance in 'One Among Men' was sublime. It wasn't contrived or formulaic but authentic, growing, and fraught with insecurities. If you appreciate interesting and conversational dialogue as I do, you'll love that aspect of this novel. I particularly enjoyed the discussions about God between a Christian and a non-believer. Another superbly written story by Connie Almony!!

Christine says

Sam Hart is the new RD for an all men's college dorm building. She has no other choice to take the job which she knows is going to a struggle. Sam is 26 and trying to earn her doctorate in psychology. Sam is facing a challenge since there has never been a female who has been an RD for the all men's college dorm.

Sam has made a promise to be true to herself and to God. She is struggling and meets some people who help her through her journey and others who challenge her. She meets a Chris Johnson and she is not sure what to think of him at first. He always seems to be around to help her, but on the other hand he is also around very bad people.

There are drug dealers on campus and a rapist on the loose.

This was a nice read. Some of the sentences were awkward, but they can be fixed with a professional editor.

I knew going into this story that it was a clean christian read and Sam was seeking "help" from God, but sometimes it felt too much. I read a lot of christian romance and this felt at times like I was at a sermon or being preached. I liked when the characters try to find strength from a high power, but I think when it is mentioned too much, it loses its message.

Overall it was not a bad read. It had a twist and suspense. I liked how the reader saw Sam get the respect from the residents in the dorm and also how she became a friend to them. I liked reading about all the secondary characters. I am not sure I will be reading about Adam which I think it the next book.

I was a little annoyed that (view spoiler)

Lillie says

Romance, mystery, Christian faith—all set in a men's dorm on a college campus with a female resident director. A good read.

Ladyp says

I absolutely loved this book! If I could I would even give it more stars as that is how good it is!

This story is about how all of us who call ourselves followers of Christ should act but the true story is, how far from it, we do live.

It is no wonder people do not want to know God or follow Jesus Christ for the simple reason, we who do say we are following Him, don't live like it.

This story kept me on the edge of my seat wanting to know what happens next and that is just the kind of book I really enjoy reading.

This book does not preach it to you instead the characters live it. Plus the characters have been through tough stuff and they still find even though they don't deserve it they still come to understand their need for a savior. Samantha Hart aka Sam has taken the job of RA in an all male dorm not by choice but this is her job. She lives her life differently and that is, how the males in her dorm, learn to treat her with respect but not without trying some tricks on her first. Something happened to Sam's mom when she was fourteen and one of Sam's old boyfriends was an abuser of sorts; this makes her live in fear of the unknown. Still she continues walking the walk with everyone she comes into contact with.

There is a rapist on the loose on campus and that puts everyone on edge.

As she is getting settled into her resident assistant's apartment a resident facility guy comes to fix the outlets in her apartment. She has her music up so loud she never hears him knock so he lets himself in with the master key. Big mistake!

His name is Chris. Is Chris really who he says he is? Why does he not allow anyone to really get close to him?

Lucinda her new boss warns her about a guy named Clive who they affectionately call Preacher, who is one of the resident assistants.

Then there is Adam and his K-9 drug-sniffing dog Daisy. They become acquainted with Sam, as she has to call them when she does dorm hall checks and the smells of drugs waft into the air.

The author doesn't spare the drama, which is good because what good is book without a little drama!

There are quite a few more characters I didn't mention because you really need to get this book and read it for yourself. It will hold your interest and make you wish you personally knew someone like Sam.

Emily says

This book opened with a bang that got the adrenaline pumping.

I struggled a little into it as I adjusted to the multiple perspectives it is written in, but that in no way reflects badly on the author. I loved the contrasting picture of Christian witness, where it can be direct and "in your

face", or a silent ministration through deeds and prayer. I also enjoyed the blend between fiction and the realities of college living. The many stories within the story kept the book moving along nicely to a dramatic conclusion.

I recommend this book to anyone who appreciates a Christian read that is unapologetic in its message and reveals flaws in the modern Christian.

I received a free copy from the author in exchange for an honest review

Heather says

This book was simply amazing, from start to finish. The story grabbed my attention from the very beginning and I couldn't stop reading. I read it in less than a day. I absolutely loved all the characters in the book. They are all so different, yet each one is so well-drawn and developed, and completely relatable. I loved Sam and Chris. Sure, they both have their faults, but that is part of what helps to make their story so applicable and realistic, and it demonstrates the fact that no one is ever too far out to be changed by God's amazing redemption and salvation. It was so fascinating getting an inside glimpse of life as a resident director in a tough, all-male college dorm. Sam is amazing in her role, but even more amazing is the God who she learns to rely on and faithfully brings her through every struggle.

I will mention that a good portion of the novel goes into some heavier, mature topics, so I would only recommend it to more mature readers, but it is handled tastefully and doesn't go into too much detail. All in all, I highly enjoyed this book, and I can't wait to read the next book in the series!

I received a free copy of this book from the author in exchange for my honest review.

Janet says

very good
