



Swift's Temptation

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Small town farm boy Fagan Swift moves to New York City to escape the suffocating confines of his hometown and, after nine months of job searching, stumbles on a well-paying position at an escort agency. Once there, he meets the most arrogant, infuriating man he's ever known, Xavier James. The sparks fly from the very moment they meet, igniting a fire between the two men that blazes out of control.

Too much champagne at the company Christmas party finds Fagan waking up in a stranger's hotel room. Only his hangover is the least of his worries when he finds that the stranger is none other than Xavier, and a call from his best friend, Trinity, sends him winging towards home when his father ends up in the hospital.

Blackmail and lust follow swiftly on Fagan's heels and he has no choice but to give into Xavier's demands to be his lover. His father's life depends on it. Can Fagan survive long enough to untangle the web of blackmail Xavier has woven around him or will it drag his soul down into the darkness threatening to consume him?

Swift's Temptation Details

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Author : J.R. Loveless

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From Reader Review Swift's Temptation for online ebook

Michelle says

There is such a thing as taking it too far with the whole asshole theme. Sometimes writers take it too far, to the point of no return and I can't forgive the MC. This book is an example of that very thing

Melissa Mendoza says

Title: Swift's Temptation

Author: J.R. Loveless

Series:

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Reviewer: Melissa

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Blurb:

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Review:

“Expecting a punishing kiss, I was surprised to find his mouth hesitant and sweet. Unable to resist the temptation of kindness from him, I pressed up against him and responded in kind, lightly moving my lips against his.”

4 small town stars! Beautiful and hopeful!

Fagan is a small town boy in the big town of New York. He's desperate for a job and when he finds a job at an escort, that pays good money, of course he jumps. While there he meets, the sexy (and yes he knows it) Xavier. And as much as Fagan finds him obnoxious, he can't deny the spark he feels for him. One night during a company Christmas party Fagan has a little too much to drink and wakes up to find himself in bed with none other than Xavier. And before he can even come to terms with that, he gets a call from his best friend, informing him that his dad is in the hospital. Blackmailing soon begins and Fagan is put in an awkward spot. Can Fagan deal with Xavier and his antics, while trying to take care of his dad? Will Xavier actually admit his true feelings for the small town boy??

This book had its emotional moments, but there were times I did chuckle. You will love to hate Xavier and his know it all antics. And you'll want to hug Fagan because of his struggles. This is the first book I've read of J.R's but after this I know I'll be reading more.

ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review. Reviewed by Melissa from Alpha Book Club

L-D says

It's difficult for me to review this book, because if this wasn't a fictional book, and if Fagan were a friend of mine I would never, ever, EVER be okay with the ending of this book.

This book touches on a lot of emotional abuse that occurs over a period of time. I'm simply not okay with that. The reason that Xavier gives for being the way he is, doesn't in any way justify the way he treated Fagan. Once trust is stripped from a relationship, in my opinion, it's nearly impossible to ever get it back. But I guess this is fiction so anything can happen.

If I allow for the fact that this is a book and it's supposed to have a storybook happy ending, I can be okay with the MC's HEA. But really, I detested Xavier through most of the book - I thought he was cruel and despicable. Just because Fagan is such a loving, forgiving character doesn't make it okay that Xavier did the things that he did.

I also didn't really enjoy the first person voice in this book. While I don't have a problem with first person in general, the language felt a bit stilted to me initially. I think I got used to it, or I convinced myself it's because Fagan's a farm boy and maybe just wasn't very well-spoken, that I didn't notice it after awhile or was able to put it to the back of my mind.

I did like a lot of the secondary characters. Fagan was a kind person and made a lot of friends who looked out for him to include his best friend, Trinity, Winston, Trace, and Victor. I did like the way Trinity and Winston refused to forgive Xavier as well.

So this was a very quick read for me and I was definitely entertained and captured by the story - I finished it in only a few hours - and although I didn't like Xavier I do think the author did a good job in convincing the reader of his sincerity in the end. In real life though, this pattern of abuse typically never ends so is this truly an HEA or simply a HFN? I guess we'll never know.

Enny says

The whole time I was reading the book, I couldn't stop thinking "Since when do Mills & Boon publish m/m romances?"

Dre says

I really liked that they Xavier and Fagan just didn't have a HEA after the Xmas party. So many books would have had them sleep together at the party, realize their feelings but be afraid to tell the other, but shortly after end up together, and this book was not like that. It was great to read something different even is Xavier was a bit of an a-hole.

momokaachan says

Hmmm. Could have been better, but wasn't bad. Would like to see sequel(s) with supporting characters.

Moonlite_Reader says

Fagan has just moved to New York with his best friend Trinity and so happy to have left his small farm lifestyle behind. Since moving to New York he has tried several jobs that just don't last him until he comes across an escort job that happens to fall in his lap. On his first day arriving at the place of business he sees the most beautiful man with the longest sexiest hair ever. His infatuation stops right quick when first he sees the disgusted look aimed towards him from said man, Xavier and second he never has nothing nice to say.

He does his best to avoid him until one morning he wakes up naked in bed with a killer hangover and no memory of whats happened. He finally realizes just who that person is he fucked and bolts. He can't believe he spent the night with the bane of his existence. Then comes the call that has him rushing home only to be followed by Xavier and so begins the blackmail.

Xavier wants Fagan when he wants where ever he wants. He won't take no for an answer. Xavier comes off as a real asshole but I love him. His one Major flaw is he doesn't know how to control his jealousy. And every time he gets jealous and possessive he take it out on Fagan. One incident in particular becomes to much for him, he blows up and starts using Fagan as nothing more then his whore and makes him move in with him with Fagan having no choice in the matter. Fagan is in love with Xavier but can't take it any longer after Xavier goes psychotic after one of Fagan's friends touches him. He gets out without telling anyone where he's headed. Xavier becomes desperate to find him and get him back but it won't be easy.

I really loved both characters. For me there was no rape or non consent regardless of the situation. Recommended.

Chris Jeffreys says

ZERO STARS! I've read several of Author Loveless' prior works, and found them to be compelling romances. I simply do not understand how she could have gone so wrong with Swift's Temptation.

Here is a brief overview of the story. A 24 year old gay man, Fagan, comes to New York City to get away from his family's Iowa farm. He has a series of jobs, but ends up being a non-sexual escort for a high priced escort service. While he is on the job, Fagan meets Xavier (an accountant for the escort service). Fagan believes that there is a spark between himself and Xavier. Xavier, however, is extremely aloof and believes that Fagan is nothing more than a "whore". (NOTE: When the guy that you have the hots for calls you a whore, that is probably not the best way to start a relationship.)

One Christmas, Fagan is called home because his father was involved in a severe car accident. Unbenounced to Fagan, Xavier follows him out to Iowa to torment him in front of his father. Xavier tells Fagan that if he does not voluntarily submit to all of his sexual and non-sexual demands, Xavier will tell Fagan's critically ill father that his son is a whore for a living so the father will die from the stress on his heart.

That is the best part of the relationship between the victim and the abuser. The author ultimately wants us, as readers, to feel bad for the abuser. WHAT?!? There are so many things wrong with the author's point of view in this novel that it would take pages and pages of criticism to alert you to all of the problems.

Suffice it to say that the abuser/rapist is a possessive asshole, whose initial sexual encounters with his victim are nothing more than blackmailed rape sessions. There is nothing romantic in the picture painted by this author, and if the author believes that abuse/rape can be equated with romance and love, there is something tragically wrong with her brain's function. The facts of this story are not the basis for a romance novel --and, I would submit that any author worth his/her salt should be ashamed for writing this story which tries to glorify and justify abuse and rape.

This is a dark miserable story. It is not a romance whatsoever. You can't write 75% of a book about spousal abuse/boyfriend abuse and then try to pack it all up into a happy ever after story, and say everything is all better. Since we know that the next chapter of the still unwritten book will find the abuse victim with a black eye, broken bones, or perhaps dead once the true colors of the abuser come to the surface again.

When someone treats an alleged lover as a "whore" and degrades them to the point of worthlessness, there is nothing redeeming about the person. Since the author tries so hard to convince us that an abuser should be given another chance, it leads me to question the author's motivation for writing this story.

The Xavier character is pure evil -- he cannot be redeemed, and, most certainly a romance story cannot be based upon a rapist and abuser as someone who is supposed to be in a caring relationship. The author then spends 100 pages at the end of the book with the abuser/rapist trying to convince the victim that he has reformed, and will now be a good guy. Rather than giving the victim the balls to say "no" to this abuser, the author permits the victim to enter into another relationship with the abuser. And in one thoroughly unbelievable part of the story, the victim allows the abuser to put a blindfold on him and take him away. (What's the next novel going to be -- finding the victim's body at the bottom of a river after taking a beating from the abuser. I guess this author would say that "the abuser was just having a bad day.").

This book is bad, really bad - no, the word "bad" doesn't adequately state my distain for this book. Anyone who has ever been in an abusive relationship will see this book for the absolute crap that it is -- there is simply no way to reform an abuser such as Xavier, and this author's tender spot for such an abuser makes this reader question the author's state of mind. This book is a depressing mess that gets worse as you read more pages. This book deserves no stars, but it does deserve a reprimand to the author -- how dare she try to sell this crap as a romance story. Under no circumstances can an abusive relationship ever masquerade as romantic love. TO THE AUTHOR: If you believes this story adequately demonstrates a romance, you should spend more than a few afternoons in a shelter for victims of abuse who gave their abusive lover "one last chance".

Ami says

Young Fagan (poor, poor guy, that name definitely doesn't make his life easier :p) leaves his farm hometown to move to New York City with his best friend. Then he lands a job as escort at "Temptation" which pays well -- and since he's gay, he will not sleep with the female clients. Except that he also meets the bane of his existence, Xavier, who seems to dislike him from the very beginning. But Fagan develops strong feeling for Xavier, despite they're always butting heads. Then one drunken night brings Fagan to Xavier's bed ... and a path of blackmail. Because when Fagan must returns home to his sick father, Xavier follows, and threats Fagan that if he doesn't submits to Xavier's needs, he will tell Fagan's father about his true job in NYC ...

Wow, okay, on one hand ... this feels a bit like old Harlequin romance, with emotional and physical blackmail which borders to dubious consent, but one who is subjected to it still falls in love with the "tormentor". It's definitely complicated and unhealthy. But then again, sometimes, I prefer men that are uneasy to love because when they try to make amends, they might go all the way.

I enjoy Fagan's voice ... he seems to have a very likeable character, since he easily makes friends and charms others. Xavier, on the other hand, is a possessive jerk. Again, he might not easy to love. Sure he says that he has a painful past that drives him to that awful behavior, but the way he treats Fagan like a whore to use, and there's this one scene that very, very close to rape, I'm not supporting him as Fagan's boyfriend quick as a bat! At least he does show improvement in the end, but I hope Fagan will stick to both his feet and slaps Xavier if he acts like jerk again :)

I do feel interested with secondary character, Trace (Fagan's art teacher), and I wonder if he will gets his own happy story ...

Eyre says

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I'm just going to list the issues I had with this one.

1. Xavier was an ass from day one. I could get over that, but even though he assumed Fagan was a whore, he didn't stop himself when Fagan was so drunk that he couldn't s

LaShonta says

Oh hell no.

Bubbles Hunty Honest & Direct Opinions says

TBNT-- See Eyre's review to know why

Makhda says

I love blackmail story. And yes, there's a groveling time. I'm happy.

Warning : Dubcon

*** Endless says**

I'm sorry i did not like this book at all...

There was not a whole lot of substance behind the blackmail, i felt...
It was just weird and unreal and felt forced for the heck of it...

The angst factor felt forced...
The blackmail thing felt forced...
The wooing felt forced...
all for the sake of a forced HEA...

Not a big fan of that!

piranha says

Dreck. And not even guilty pleasure dreck, but execrable, unbelievable dreck.

I despise Xavier. He's a judgmental, abusive ass from day one, and I don't care about his excuses. And those excuses were ridiculously banal. So he got cheated on; guess what, boy, that doesn't excuse you blackmailing and raping the next guy, ok? You are several shades **WORSE** than your ex.

And Fagan -- first off, change your name, kid. You deserve better. Secondly, seek counseling. You're falling for an abusive jerk, and you trust people who're not trustworthy (Trace). It doesn't matter how hot Xavier is. Don't. Don't fall for this kind of blackmail either; call his bluff. And don't, ever, take your abuser back. Yeah, yeah, you came when he raped you -- involuntary sexual response happens even to real tough guys, never mind what all happens to fictional gay guys written by straight women. Ignore cretinous reviewers who think that was "dubious consent". It was rape. Nothing dubious about it. Dump the sad sack. Move on. It doesn't matter how prettily he says "sorry", and how nicely he courts you. He should be in jail. You can do better. After therapy.

The blackmail doesn't make sense. Maybe if Fagan's sick dad hadn't known he was gay, maybe that could have justified it. But that he was a non-sexual escort -- how is that even bad? Sounds like the author suffered from the same prejudice Xavier did. Maybe the two should get together.

No Westerner should be using standard yaoi rape tropes, I am sorry. What is called Boys Love in Japan is

often transgressive for Japan (complex reason). It's regressive for us. Leave it to Japan, or work harder on letting it inspire you to create something different instead of using the very same tropes.
