



## Scars on His Heart

*Jaime Samms*

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After a disastrous five years away at college, Joe returns to his aunt's farm and finds his childhood sweetheart Cameron eager to rekindle their relationship. Joe has a hard time confessing that he didn't come home until now because he's only just managed to leave Andre, his controlling boyfriend, and has a harder time renewing his submissive role in his affair with Cam. Cam thinks he has to find a way to remind Joe how to be strong. But what Cam doesn't realize is that Joe is strong, strong enough to leave behind a life of shame—though he's terrified his past will catch up to him. Joe must confront his ex and take back his own life, on his own terms, before he's able to give Cam everything they both desire.

### Scars on His Heart Details

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## From Reader Review Scars on His Heart for online ebook

### Love Bytes Reviews says

4.5 star review by Roberta

Wow, I keep forgetting just how Jamie likes to put her characters through the wringer and her readers as well. I was so overwhelmed with all that Joe has gone through. This is truly Joe's story of redemption and love.

Joe is this young man who lost his family in a fire when he was 12. He went to stay with his Aunt and Uncle's place. Joe is submissive and the only man who really loved him, Cam is now back in his life. The only problem is that he's run from Andre' his ex (I use that term quite loosely). Joe left after he and Cam shared a moment. Just ran away to school and didn't return home for 5 years. Joe has done some things that he's not proud of, in order to pay for his schooling and a roof over his head. He was hurt by Andre' and hurt in a way that can never be fixed. Joe is battling some self-worth issues and well as trying to come to terms with what he's done in the recent past in order to graduate college. I feel that he's also working on his own submissive nature. He knows that he's submissive, but he also is having difficulty reconciling that with the work that he's been doing. Joe wants and needs to learn to stand on his own two feet and not always run.

Cam is this really sweet, loving, kind man who has been in love with Joe for years. Cam has been on the farm since he was 5 years old. He loves the work that he does and he's never had any aspirations to do anything else. Cam is out and proud. He's been out since he was young and he's always had the love and support of his family. He is a Dom and one that is struggling with the one man who he has always wanted. He doesn't know how to help Joe come to understand his submissive nature without interfering with Joe's need to find his own balance and his own way in his life. Cam is the great character who shows his own vulnerability when it comes to Joe. How he wants to protect and love him and yet he still wants to be able to allow Joe to be his own man when it comes to his life. He wants to do all that and yet with the things that Joe has been through and is going through, he doesn't know if he can give Joe everything that he needs in order to heal. Cam is just the sweetest guy who wants to do the best for everyone, especially Joe and himself. It's nice to watch Cam come into his own during this story.

The secondary characters in this book were a wonderful balance to our two MC's. They showed such support and strength and most important...lots of love to them. They were there to give some wonderful advice and to help guide them both on this journey that they were embarking on. I loved that these characters didn't overwhelm them, but gently guided them and allowed them to really be able to see what was happening and to make their own choices. Such a wonderful great cast of characters in this book. They truly helped to move the story along in a really wonderful way.

There was some sex in this story. It was nice and hot and yet, there was such intimacy in those scenes. It was never gratuitous, the sex scenes. These two men who were both at some point hurt, were coming together and not only finding comfort in each other but in a way...finding themselves. It was really beautiful to see them grow into who they truly were.

Now, I will say that even though this book has BDSM elements, there was a part that you hear about, a caning that was not consensual. It was done in the form of "training" and it was hard to read. Granted, it was mostly off screen and you never read it, you just read about the feelings and saw the aftereffects and that was enough for me. I really hated that this poor kid went through that.

Overall, this was a really great book to read and I was so very lucky to have the opportunity to review it for

you. If you want a story that will tug your heart and yet still make your heart happy, this is it.

A copy of this book was provided in exchange for an honest review. Please visit [www.lovebytesreviews.com](http://www.lovebytesreviews.com) to see this and many more reviews!

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### **Gail says**

3.75 stars. This one is not as tight and angsty as some of her previous works. I totally enjoyed how Cam and Joe struggled with their messy lives... made wrong decisions... expected each other to read their minds... tried and failed to be what each thought the other wanted/needed (especially Cam). I do love a Dom with a little self-doubt!

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### **Sandra says**

Review here: <http://myfictionnook.booklikes.com/po...>

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### **Diverse says**

This was a very emotional and powerful book. I've read many BDSM books and it was very interesting to read a BDSM book that had me as invested as this one did. I've read many that were so far off the mark of what BDSM is and others that I was like, "Yeah, nailed it." This book focused SO much on the mental of it and how important that is. How without your own self love, your own personal ownership you can never give it to anyone else. I really loved that! Great book!

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### **Joyfully Jay says**

*A Joyfully Jay review.*

#### **4.25 stars**

This is my first book by Jaime Samms and I will say I was really impressed by the depth and complexity we get from these characters. I really felt like we get to learn not just what is driving Joe and Cam, but really follow along as they work through their feelings and figure themselves out over the course of the book.

Although the book is told in alternating POV, the first half of the story focuses mostly on Cam. He is the one left behind when Joe runs off to school and we know he still loves Joe desperately. Cam is openly gay, but has tried to hide his feelings because Joe is not. When Joe returns, it opens all those wounds for Cam. He is still hurt that Joe was gone, still wants to be with Joe, and is desperate to figure out what Joe is hiding. Cam is an interesting mix of strength and vulnerability. As a child he was abandoned on the farm, but grew up like part of the family. He runs the farm and is strong and confident, but with Joe he is also vulnerable. It is clear he has never gotten over Joe leaving, and even when he pushes Joe to come back to him and to open up about his past, it is still obvious how hard this is for him and how painful it was to be without Joe for so long.

**Read Jay's review in its entirety here.**

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## **Lynn says**

3.5 stars, but I'll round up to 4.

SCARS ON HIS HEART is a heart wrenching journey of healing, finding inner strength, and emotional growth.

Joe and Cam were the best of friends growing up together on Joe's Aunt and Uncle's farm. There is a mutual attraction between the two but Joe is worried about sharing his submissive nature with Cam. After one brief sexual experience together, Joe leaves for college and, unable to deal with his emotions, disconnects from Cam and everyone else on the farm.

When Joe returns to the farm for his cousin's wedding, everyone knows there is something wrong. Joe is quiet, secretive, and he looks ill. The secret Joe is keeping is about the disastrously abusive relationship he was in while away at school. Joe's not sure how his Aunt will deal with the news that he is gay; he definitely doesn't want to burden her with the details of how he let his ex treat him. Joe is happy to see his family and Cam, but his fear of his past and unfinished business may keep him from ever being able to find true happiness. Joe knows that before he can be free of his past, he has to confront Andre, his ex, and open up to his family.

More than any one individual character, the cast of this book is what made it so enjoyable to read. Between Aunt Marie who is strong but loving, her loud, cussing daughter Mindy, the bartender Craig and his biker gang friends, and the farm workers Tommy, Sean, and Abby, there was never a dull moment. The way everyone comes together as a family to support Cam in his unrequited love for Joe and to support Joe in gaining control of his life is great. There is some humor mixed in with the love and support, which had me laughing out loud. Abby, a farm hand, threatening Joe's ex with a wrench, and Craig and Cam rounding up a biker gang to go help Joe get his things out of his ex's apartment--priceless. With such an emotional story it was nice to have these small moments of levity.

I'm not sure if it was more rewarding to see Joe grow stronger and open up to his friends and family about what had happened to him, or to see his friends and family form a tight circle of support around him. Joe made some questionable choices while away at school that many people would have judged him for, but not his family. And the family in this story has nothing to do with blood, making the love and support all the more impressive and heartwarming. This was a great, and emotional, read.

Reviewed at The Romance Reviews

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## **Marbea E. Logan says**

I can't say I understood Joe's reason for prostituting himself out. Like you didn't really want to go to college, but went through desperate measures for tuition and rent on an apartment you hardly stayed in. He had a big farm house and family to go home to, but because he has a kink he can't control he let his life get away from him. Well, for Cam to love him through the rejection and abandonment took a lot, and Joe needed way more than to be grounded. Joe always protected Cam without his knowledge, and Cam supporting Joe with Joe's knowing Cam's intentions. That closet he lived in thinking he was alone, misunderstood, and waiting to be judged is the root to his pitiful in the life. He can't be secure with his kink if he's not secure with his

sexuality. His family was his tether if he would've trusted he was loved no matter what his sexual orientation. But what's a romantic erotica without drama!?

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## **Victoria Rainey says**

Hearts on Fire Review

Original Review Published here: <http://heartsonfirereviews.com/?p=29122>

Joe is back home after five years away at college. However, the man that left for college and the man that returned are totally different. He seems broken and struggle with life. Joe is a submissive trying to cope with making his own decisions again after so long. He also does not open up so his family around him while understand something is wrong have no idea how to fix it.

Cam is Joe's best friend and also is a Dom. He fell in love with Joe years ago and has waited for him to return. While he has played with other subs he seems to have waited for Joe to return. Cam sees that Joe is having problems but has no idea the scope or how to help.

The connection and chemistry between Cam and Joe is intense. Joe seems to try to keep away from Cam because he is afraid he will push and Joe is either not ready to talk about it or ashamed of his past. Its apparent that Joe is trying to help from something but it takes a while to fully understand. I loved that sex was not a main focus of the book.

This book is well written with a fascinating storyline. The main characters and the secondary characters were interesting. This is not a lighthearted book and is very slow to unravel. Just when I had everything figured out, a new twist was thrown in. Overall, this was a great book that makes you think twice about some of the decisions you make.

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## **CB says**

I have several books from this author and will continue to buy - they keep me enthralled until the end!

In this one, Joe makes a lot of really poor decisions, chalk it up to being young, horny and stupid? I like Cam - wish there would have been even more character development on him. I almost think he deserves better than Joe but the story left me with hope for people changing, maturing and learning from their mistakes.

You can't blame your adult choices on childhood traumas or others and it was good to see that, while those played a part, Joe tried to take responsibility.

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## **Leanne says**

3.5 Stars rounded up because I couldn't put this one down.

Solid writing, angsty hurt/comfort and some really well fleshed out characters.  
It hit all the spots. :)

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### **Romance says**

I didn't feel as though the characters were genuinely connected therefore I couldn't connect.

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### **Caroline Brand says**

REVIEWED FOR PRISM BOOK ALLIANCE

4.5 Stars

If you have never read a book written by Jaime Samms then you should. Each one that I have read I have enjoyed, some more than once and this one was no different. It was definitely a little darker though.

This is a story of a dream gone badly wrong. Of losing control of a situation and falling deeper and deeper until all that is left is despair. It was quite a hard story to read but very much worth it in the end as Joe takes his life back and finally has some control.

Joe left home five years ago when he panicked after sleeping with his best friend and almost brother Cam. He has since been studying at college and returning home infrequently for family gatherings. His latest trip home is for a family wedding. He looks tired and is skittish and when he has to face Cam all the old feelings between the two men come racing back.

Cam was left heartbroken five years ago. He finally got what he wanted most in the world, Joe in his arms, only to find the man had run off to college. His feelings for Joe haven't changed in all that time but there are things Joe doesn't know about Cam and he is scared to bring them up.

Cam is a dominant lover and over the years has had scenes with many other men but he has always drawn the line at sleeping with anybody. He loves Joe, his body reacts and responds to Joe but until Joe comes home, admits he is gay and feels the same way as Cam he believes it a lost cause.

Cams assumption that Joe has been dating women at College couldn't be further from the truth. Joe is hiding from his ex-lover Andre and carries the scars from that relationship. Andre was far more than just a lover and his influence over Joe has left him in a bad place. When the truth finally comes out Joe is surprised at the level of support he receives from his family and friends. Although Cam is left devastated by the revelations he puts his anger and fear to one side to help his best friend.

Before these two men can have any chance of a relationship Joe must stand up and face his past. He must also forgive himself for the past five years. The hardest part of his recovery is going to be learning to trust, something that Cam is desperate for and something that they both need.

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## Christy says

'Scars on his Heart' is only the second book that I've read by Jaime Samms but so far this author has truly impressed me. I was intrigued by the blurb for this book, but I was captivated within the first few pages. Neither of the main characters behaved the way I "assumed" they would and the story line wasn't very predictable. What a refreshing change of pace.

*"Not for the first time, Joe cursed the day he'd ever discovered this thing in him that longed for the bonds and everything they implied. It did, as Cam had pointed out, change everything."*

Joe's parents died when he was twelve and he went to live on his uncle Albert and aunt Marie's farm with his cousin and fifteen-year-old Cam. Cam's father worked the farm for almost a year before leaving his five-year-old son there for Albert and Marie to take in. It's the only home Cam has ever known. Joe has come home after five years away at college and he's carrying a lot of scars and a lot of secrets. Joe and Cam had one memorable moment together before Joe left and neither has been able to forget it. But Cam is a different man now, although his desire and his love for Joe have never gone away.

Cam and Aunt Marie both know that Joe is running from something and that he's hiding something. Joe just wants to feel the peace he used to feel on the farm but his mind and all the things he's done won't let him relax and find that peace he needs so badly. Well, that and someone from Joe's past, someone who thinks he owns Joe and that Joe is his commodity, comes looking for him. Until Joe can realize his own strength and learn to rely on the people who truly love him, Joe will never be free from his past. And until Cam can get past the life Joe lived for five years and recognize what he needs to do to provide Joe with the safety and security he needs, then Cam is going to lose Joe. Again.

This was an interesting story that I enjoyed. It took me quite a while to really connect with Joe, but once I did, I saw what an amazing, strong, and beautiful man he was. I got frustrated some with Cam, mainly because he didn't behave the way I thought he should, which is ridiculous, I know. However, overall, I enjoyed the complexity of these men and their struggles. There were some fabulous secondary characters which I very much adored. This is not a lighthearted book, however, but if you enjoy drama, angst, and pain, then it might be for you. In my opinion, this story has very little to do with BDSM. Instead it is a character study of one man's journey to find himself, and his lover's willingness to trust him enough to let him stand on his own two feet.

NOTE: This book was provided by Dreamspinner Press for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

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## Ambre says

Hmmm. This is a cute BDSM hurt /comfort romance, but it kind of fails due to internal inconsistency. The author creates such a tangled and traumatic scene but misses some pretty key issues.

Basically, Joe and Cam are old flames. They both have kinks, which are portrayed as needs rather than desires. They try to reignite something, but Cam finds out that during time apart Joe has been working as a prostitute for an abusive "Dom."

The plot starts with the premise that BDSM is a way to help broken psyches function via control and seeks to refute it by showing that people need to have secure self-image to function in a relationship. However, it is so focused on refuting the "Dom fixes sub" trope that it misses how broken Cam is here. It is all about how

Cam needs to do this and that and wait and suffer and not push or ask for anything or demand anything in return because poor Joe. What? There is even a scene where Joe takes the old Dom to task for not taking good care of him (this was a character that didn't seem consistent. He was portrayed as a heartless thug but in the end he was just misunderstood? I was very confused by how that played out or why she did it that way).

The thing is that through the book, Joe doesn't care one whit about taking care of Cam or not hurting him. The author just got so focused on the "power of the submissive" and didn't really consider the Dom at all. Nor did she ever really address issues like trust and honesty in relationships that seemed pretty pertinent to the situation, she just tied it all up with a "true love conquers all" HEA. The sub didn't come across as submissive except in a few specific scenes where he felt some weird compulsion to follow orders. The Dom didn't seem dominant except when he was barking orders. And in the end BDSM had a very small role in the book except as a vehicle for abuse and manipulation.

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## **Melissa says**

This book contains discussions of the BDSM lifestyle and bondage play.

I felt so sorry for the main characters in this book. They had to go through so much pain and anguish to get their HEA and at times it was difficult to watch the scenes play out. I loved that Ms. Samms chose to have the POV switch between her two main characters because I believe it helped the reader to bond with both Joe and Cam and understand their emotional turmoil.

Sometimes the hardest part of finding love is not seeking your partner but healing yourself enough to be ready for them and this book is a perfect example of that. These two men were hurting for different reasons and had to heal as a couple and individually in order to truly have a chance together.

This story exemplified the thought that no matter what you have done or the choices you have made you will always be loved and accepted at home. It is a truly sweet and heartwarming sentiment and after reading so many stories of broken families and abuse it was refreshing to read about this tight-knit while albeit unconventional family.

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