



The Name of the Game

Jennifer Dawson

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Some people follow the rules. . .

A professor of forensic anthropology, James Donovan is the reasonable sibling among the passionate, impulsive Donovans. But there's nothing reasonable about his reaction to baker Gracie Roberts. She's all wild curls and mouth-watering curves, as deliciously tempting as the sugary treats she's famous for--and twice as irritating. But before long, James decides that getting a taste of her is one indulgence he can't pass up. . .

Some people play to win. . .

Independent, smart, and sexy, Gracie's year-long dry spell has her itching for a man. Responsible, health-obsessed James? Not in a million years! She needs a guy who knows how to let loose! But when James sets out to show her just how satisfying a disciplined man can be when pleasure is at stake, she learns just how sweet--and spicy--he really is.

Have James and Gracie found the recipe for love?

The Name of the Game Details

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Author : Jennifer Dawson

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From Reader Review The Name of the Game for online ebook

Pavitra (For The Love of Fictional Worlds) says

I received an eARC of the book via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Actual Rating 4.5 Stars

Brilliantly done! It had me up the whole night and I couldn't be happier about it! Already have the first two books downloaded, so I am going to go read them now!

Full detailed review will be up closer to the release date!

Suraya (thesuraya) says

3.75 stars

? Kimberly says

Coffee dates with The Name of the Game

First Date: Right away, I like the tension between James Donovan and Gracie Roberts. These two will be spending a lot more time in each other's company thanks to the upcoming marriage of Gracie's best friend Cecilia and James' brother Shane. The banter is delicious and had me giggling from the onset. She is a baker and he is a health nut, but underneath it all there is this bubbling sexual tension that had me craving more.

Second date: They soon begin to realize that their issues stem from attraction and the games begin. Gracie tries to take control of the situation and Dawson had me laughing, sighing and falling head over heels for James. From his sexy professor attitude to his Doctor Who t-shirts, the man is a geeky god. I can just see him with his glasses and disheveled hair. He over analyses everything and I loved watching him fall. Time spent with the Dawson family as they celebrate the engagement of Celica and Shane added some nice touches. I enjoyed updates from earlier characters and we even meet new ones. James' friends were hilarious and the conversations he had with them had me grinning. I loved all the talk about cupcakes, browncoats, and time lords!

Third date: Heat, some role-playing and fantasy fulfilling added just the right amount of heat. Dawson has a thing for realistic Dom/sub relationships and we catch a glimpse here. We see some growing pains, and a few mistakes that lead to relationship turbulence but it was not overdone and kept me flipping the pages. Both Gracie and James are strong characters, and I loved the depth Dawson brought to them. We witness character growth as we learn more about James and see Gracie realize a few important things about herself. I didn't want my dates to end.

Copy provided by publisher, This review was originally posted at Caffeinated Reviewer

Nefise says

DNF...

Another CR book built on sex and attraction without solid plot and characterization.

I tried to pass over the fact that there were a lot of sex thoughts and physical attraction at the beginning of the book.

But I couldn't ignore that heroine sounds very cheap as if she hooks up every attractive man and it's perfectly normal and logical thing to do. Even she thought using same method on hero but she gave up after some consideration.

Anyway, I don't want to waste my time writing many complaints about it.

I just hoped that maybe I have found a hidden good CR book but I was not that lucky.

Jen says

4 Professor Stars

I've found a new author to follow. Jennifer Dawson did a fantastic job in **The Name of the Game**. It seems I have a knack lately though of picking books to read in the middle of a series. Luckily this one can be read as a stand alone, however, it makes me want to pick up books one and two in this series to catch up with the group.

I am a sucker for hate/love relationships and that's exactly the type of relationship that James and Gracie have. They are total opposites, yet they have this magnetic attraction toward one another that can't be ignored.

Gracie's best friend is also James' sister, so they always seems to be around one another, but they fight constantly. This is where reading the first two books would have possibly shed some light on if they always fought and when it started.

They don't seem to have much in common besides their friends/family. James is a health conscious professor of forensic anthropology who lives in Chicago. Gracie is a baker in a small town outside of Chicago called Revival. They are thrown together in the beginning of this story because some of their friends are getting married. Gracie also made the cake.

Gracie likes to push James' buttons, antagonize him, but when she finally admits to herself that what she's really feeling towards him is attraction, things change. The sexual tension is so thick you could cut it with a knife. Finally when she can't take it anymore, She finds herself on James' doorstep and propositions him for sex. She's sure that once she has mediocre sex with him, she'll be able to get on with her life and that they can even be friends.

The only problem is that James turns her down. James is more of a gentleman than she realizes. He is attracted to her too, but doesn't just want to have sex with her so that they can get each other out of their

systems. However, after they share one kiss, they both know things have just become more complicated than either of them thought things could.

They decide to share a weekend together and get to know one another. I loved how easily she connected with James' thirteen year old cousin, Declan. They played Xbox games, ate the best hot dogs in Chicago and watched Dr. Who. When Declan wasn't around they flirted and got sloppy drunk, opening up to each other. Then when they finally had sex, OMG, it was so hot my iPad was steaming up.

Thank goodness for James' best friend Jane, and her partner Anne. They helped clue James in on women a few times, helping him fix some mistakes. James and Gracie both decided to not tell their family and friends that they were hooking up because they both felt it would be awkward whenever their fling ended. They were so different from one another. They couldn't possibly make this work. Or could they?

I really enjoyed this book. It was told in dual POVs, which I love. My only complaint would be that the dual POVs weren't clearly identified. It could have just been the copy I received, but the paragraphs in James' POV rolled right into Gracie's and vice versa. It caught me off guard in the beginning and I had to re-read some paragraphs because I thought I'd somehow missed something. I eventually got used to the formatting. This book was so exciting, steamy, and fun to read. I'm really looking forward to reading Sam, Evan, and Harmony's stories.

If you love the hate/love sexual tension books then I encourage you to read this story.

ARC provided by NetGalley and Kensington Books in exchange for an honest review.

Julie says

I haven't had this much fun with a contemporary romance in a long time!

A straitlaced health nut and professor of forensic anthropology, James Donovan is the exact opposite of Gracie Roberts, a baker of sweet confections, curvy, and full of sass. These two are like oil and water or Belle and the Beast because they don't mix well together and really do not like each other. However, for the sake of their friends and family, they attempt to put their animosity to rest. Once they have taken the high road, they can't seem to find a happy or even comfortable way to get along, which makes the glaring sexual tension between them even more palpable. So, what should they do about it?

This story was a real charmer, intelligent, but zany and fun with some tender and sweet moments capping off this steamy love/hate- opposites attract love story.

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Ivy Deluca says

- ***Excellent take on an old tale*** : The opposites attract trope is a tried and true formula and the professor and the bombshell is something I've read plenty of times. Gracie is a small town baker who is in Chicago for her best friend's engagement festivities and she's thrown together with James Donovan, the nerdy stuffed shirt Donovan brother. But neither fits precisely in their predetermined roles, and the fun starts when they stop fighting it and start dealing with their attraction.

What separates the best from the rest is the execution and I think Ms. Dawson has done this extremely well. The characters are drawn well, the banter is fun and James and Gracie's relationship plays out in a believable manner.

- ***Part of series yet stands alone*** : This is the third book in the series, which I didn't know going into this. I was curious about the romances for Cecelia/Shane and Maddie/Mitch, but it didn't hinder my enjoyment of this story whatsoever.

- ***Smoking hot chemistry*** : I thought James and Gracie had phenomenal chemistry and the anticipation to their first love scene was compelling. Best yet, it was chemistry that translated outside of the bedroom. They have excellent scenes where you see them get past their preconceived notions.

- ***My quibbles*** : I wasn't really expecting the better living through sexual domination moment, and the little games they play with each other were fun, but the big emotional breakthrough was missing a little bit. Also, I have to admit that James calling Gracie "baby girl" seemed a bit off for his professor persona.

A pleasant surprise, I really enjoyed this well executed take on an old trope. I'm looking forward to reading more from Ms. Dawson and more about the Donovans.

ARC provided by publisher via netgalley for review

Eri says

Jennifer Dawson has fast become one of my favorite contemporary authors. She knows exactly how to write a story that not only makes you swoon but has characters with depth and a truer than life quality to them.

I've thoroughly enjoyed the previous two installments in this series, but I'd been particularly excited for this book because Jennifer has been dropping little hints about these two characters and the *unspoken tension* between them forever, so I was immensely pleased when I got to read this.

And lo and behold this book was actually hotter and swoonier than the previous book with Cecilia and Shane *gasp* I adored the premise of this already but the romance in this made my heart flutter and flail over Gracie and James. Their chemistry was tangible and all too real and I adore them.

Gracie is the cutest person ever, and I love her so much. She's a baker, and as someone who enjoys baking and pastries, her job was the most fun to read about. She's been a true joy to read about in the past books as

well, with her warm and cozy personality which is as sweet as the stuff she makes.

James is more of an enigma, with his quiet but stern countenance. He is a professor of the rather fascinating field of forensic anthropology, and reserved compared to his brothers. It was illuminating to see beyond his facade into what made him become the person he is, and the way Gracie softens him once they got under each other's skin was wonderful.

Obviously the romance played a central part of this book, and it was *oh so magical*. Every interaction between them was perfect, building such a charming relationship that one could not help but envy, something Jennifer seems to excel at.

Besides the romance, there is the delightful supporting cast of characters that surrounds the main pair, including of course, the pairs from the previous books. I love the warm and tight-knit bonds that connect the characters and the genuine love that emanates from them. Not to mention, siblings always have the most fun exchanges and there was a healthy dose of that in this book.

I'm most definitely looking forward to the next book, where we get to find out more about Penelope and Evan, who have piqued my interest in the little snippet that was included in this.

Thank you to Netgalley and Kensington Books for the E-ARC.

nick says

Can every romance novel feature nerdy uptight male characters, please? 2015 seems to be the year for these nerdy, but very very sexy male characters and I seriously can't get enough of them. I was introduced to Jennifer Dawson and her amazing stories when I first read *The Winner Takes It All*. The book was funny, had a chemistry-laden antagonistic romance and had characters that I loved. I have to say though that I was really really looking forward to reading *The Name of the Game* because **I loved the glimpses that I saw of James and Gracie** in the previous book. This book was everything that I expected and so much more!

For a romance novel to work its charms on me, **I need the book to have characters that I can relate to and enjoy**. Jennifer Dawson is good at doing that. The protagonist, Gracie, was someone I had grown to love in the previous book. **I loved how supportive she was** of her friends and she could be very funny too. In *The Name of the Game*, we get to see more of how she is on the inside and I think **I liked her even more than I thought I would**. She was a **self-less woman who did everything for the good of others**. She was the kind of person who got along with everyone because she was so nice, except with Jame of course. I loved how friendly she was and she certainly was **capable of bringing an air of happiness to the pages**. Besides her amicable personality, Gracie was also a character who was passionate about her dream job - baker. The scenes of her baking shed so much light on her love for the job and were also successful in making me hungry. She was **one feisty and determined girl** and I loved that she was willing to sweat and overcome any obstacle to achieve her dreams.

While Gracie was more outgoing and social, **James was the opposite with his uptight and more quiet personality** with him being a professor of anthropology. He was a hoot though and I loved watching Gracie push his buttons. Even though he was uptight with Gracie, it was clear that behind his demeanor lay **a sexy and passionate man who knew how to woo a woman**. Also, dirty talker alert! I was surprised by **how**

alpha James was in the bedroom, but it was fun to see the contrast in his personality. **James had also suffered from body image issues** when he was younger and I thought it was **interesting to see a male insight on body insecurities** in a romance novel. It's usually the other way around, but I was glad to see Jennifer Dawson tackle it in *The Name of the Game*.

The romance between Gracie and James was, as expected, red-hot! I don't know about you guys but antagonistic romances are always so fun for me. *The Name of the Game* is probably **one of my favorite antagonistic romances**. I loved their bickering and bantering and I loved watching their relationship morph into intense attraction for each other and then eventually, into a sweet and playful romance that had the romantic in me squealing out of joy. Their relationship was also **drama-free for the most part** and while I thought the minor setback to their relationship could have been avoided with some communication, it didn't bother me as much as it didn't take up a good chunk of the book.

Romance readers, this fun, sexy and romantic companion series is one that I highly recommend. I think these are the perfect books to read in between heavier reads. They will make you smile, laugh and most importantly, swoon.

Jayne says

When I know that I am reading a good book? Once while reading I think already how and when I can read the rest of the parts. Excellent team of family and friends who stick together and fall in love... and for that hate to love story. That's what I love the most.

"I like order. And calm. You're chaos and fire."

About the plot: James seems to be the most responsible of the siblings. He is a professor and leading a very orderly life. On the other hand Gracie is a sweet, warm and lovely women, but not when it comes to him. She bait him at every opportunity. James is withdrawn and although feels a big chemistry to her, believed that no matter how incredible chemistry between them is, in any other way they are absolutely incompatible. He is a control freak. She is one big sexy chaos. They both believe that they have nothing in common.

They push and back, constantly arguing what drives their friends and family to madness. When he decided to be nice, it irritates her to insanity. When she wanted peace, the only thing he felt is anxiety. But when they stopped fighting, spend some time together and really looked at each other... pure magic. They sparked.

"Baby girl, the way you squeezed my cock when you came is the only compliment I need."

Turns out that in fact they do not know anything about themselves. And their attraction is so powerful, like nothing they've ever experienced before. Sex was meant to solve a problem, but only caused that they do not know at all what to do next.

"What does not liking Cheetos have to do with judging you?"

"I'm just saying this is why we're not compatible."

"Still not getting it. Are you such a huge fan you require your dates to eat a bag before you go out?"

Final thoughts: This is a contemporary romance, but in this old school way. Adults heroes who do not shun from errors and uncertainties in life. The tension between them is amazing. There is a lot of fun and great

moments. Although I have to admit that they not only each other driving to frustration at times, but reader also. At certain points could be more action. But such scenes as they role play in hot scenes, really reward a lot. It was an absolute pleasure to read it and I'm already thinking about reading the previous and waiting for the next one.

Quick Review:

Series: The third in a the Something New series. Can be read as stand alone.

Grade/Tag Tabs: Contemporary Romance.

Release Date: September 29th 2015.

Main characters: James Donovan, thirty-four, professor of forensic anthropology. He is responsible, leads a healthy lifestyle, likes control and have everything organized. Gracie Roberts, thirty-three, baker. She is very likeable, sexy, desired by everyone women.

Secondary characters: A lot of family and friends. About them are the other parts. They are strong and holding firmly together, like to have fun and take care of each other.

Steamy: Oh yes! A few hot scenes. (view spoiler)

Sensitive topic: (view spoiler)

Love triangle: (view spoiler)

Cheating: (view spoiler)

Cliffhanger: (view spoiler)

HEA: (view spoiler)

Next in the series? Yes!!

For who I would recommend? If you like well organized books, with a large group of family and friends and enemies to love story.

ARC provided by Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Follow me on Facebook or Twitter. Thank you!

Jo says

5 I-loved-this-book-so-much stars

“I like order. And calm. You’re chaos and fire.”

I’ve been waiting for Gracie and James’ book since reading the previous book, and I was not disappointed.

For the past year Gracie and James have been antagonising each other. They can’t be in the same room without fighting or disagreeing. Gracie is a baker, believes anything can be fixed with sugar. She’s wild and likes to have fun. James is a professor of forensic anthropology, he likes control, discipline and order. He believes in eating healthy, and that sugar is bad for you.

Damn, did these two light sparks off each other. I found it hilarious how they couldn't help bickering, and were totally clueless on why they couldn't get along. The chemistry between them was INTENSE, and by the time they finally decided to do something about it, I thought I would spontaneously combust.

Gracie thought because James was uptight and staid, that he would be a dud in the bedroom. Oh was I glad that he proved her wrong. Yes, the Professor did like his control, but when it came to the bedroom that control lead to scorching foreplay. I really love how Jennifer Dawson writes sexy scenes. They are so HOT!

He smiled, flicking his gaze over her. "Well, you were right about one thing. I do like to fuck in the missionary position."

"That doesn't surprise me, Professor." She kept her tone light, but it wasn't the truth; everything about him surprised her.

A slow chuckle. "I think you'll like it."

"Why do you think that?"

"You'll feel possessed, taken." His fingers squeezed her hips. "And how long has it been since you've felt that?"

And damn, this Professor was HOT. I absolutely loved how beneath his geeky appearance, and his awesome t-shirts, he was damn sexy. Most men only wanted Gracie for her Marilyn Monroe appearance, but James wanted and needed Gracie because of Gracie. And I really enjoyed how Gracie brought out the caveman in James.

Some primal part of him needed to brand her in some way. "You're mine, Gracie. And all that comes with it. You belong to me. Understood?"

The romance between Gracie and James was MAGNIFICENT. Yes, the sex was hot, but I loved how perfect they actually were for each other, especially since both of them thought that they weren't. James was so clueless about Gracie and was confused many times regarding how to act around her. I found him so adorable. And James' grovelling scene at the end - THE BEST GROVELLING EVER!! Honestly, this book has one of the most romantic and funny endings ever!

"What do I have to do, Gracie? You make me so crazy. Since the day we met, you have been a pain in my ass." He raked his fingers through his hair, making it stand up on end, giving him a deranged, wild look. "Do you understand how difficult you are, woman?"

And there were some wonderful secondary characters. James' best friend Jane was hilarious, and her partner Anne had me laughing out loud many times.

"Ha!" James scoffed. "You've never seen her around me. She hates me."

"See," Anne said, pointing at him. "This is why I'm gay. Men are so dense."

James cocked a brow. "Me? I'm why you're gay?"

She wrinkled her cute little nose. "Well, that and I'm not a big fan of the cock."

I absolutely LOVED this book! It met all my requirements - amazing main and secondary characters; sexy, hot and intense romance and many hilarious moments. Since this is the second book that I've read and loved from this author, Jennifer Dawson will be going on my auto-buy list. **I can't recommend this book enough. READ IT!!!**

Nazeefa says

[That bit at the end where James is drunk as hell and comes to proclaim his love/anger for Gracie was just superb. Hot-usually-straight-laced-calm-men losing their cool for the love of their lives always brightens my day. (hide spoiler)]

Lisa says

E-ARC received thanks to Kensington Books and Netgalley.

The Name of the Game has been one of my most anticipated sequels ever since I finished The Winner Takes it All. I'm a sucker for antagonistic romance (if you could call it that way?) and I knew James and Gracie's book was gonna be THE BOMB

and I'm glad that I wasn't wrong!

right, the major reason why I'm straight up *in love* with this book is the characters.

YOU GUYS, I can't properly express how much I adore both James and Gracie. We only see James as this uptight professor in previous books; it's nice to get another side of James in this story. I love that he's a geek (I have new appreciation for Doctor Who now *insert smirk emoji*), and that he cares about his cousin, and I also love his friendship with Anne and Jane. Gracie is too easy to love. I adore her bubbly personality and her passion for baking. I love her relationship with her brother, and Charlie too.

James and Gracie together? SO. HOT. OMG CALL THE FIRE BRIGADE! It's always the quiet ones...

sighs

daydreams

honestly, I'm a little bit stingy when it comes to rating romance novels; I usually don't give them higher than a 4 no matter how perfect they are, but this one just had me hooked from start to finish and I love EVERYTHING about it, hence the solid 5 stars. I've probably read it 3-4 times after I finished it the first time because I couldn't get enough of James and Gracie ok

Anyway, I'm almost afraid for Evan and Penelope's book now; how is Jennifer Dawson gonna top this awesomeness?

I guess we'll find out!

(no pressure tho)

Fran says

Oh wow, this was really good! This was even better than the previous book. A perfect weekend read for

me—light, romantic, and VERY HOT. More importantly, no stupid condom talks. LOL!

Talltree says

Okay series bait/friends of friends romance between a nerdy professor who has a dirty streak and Marilyn Monroe look alike baker h. Slow paced, a few chapters could have been edited out. Both characters irritated me a bit, H was too passive, h was a bit of a drama queen at times. However I enjoyed the sex scenes they were a huge plus and super hot!! They evolve from a weekend fling to something longer and fall in love. h has intimacy issues that make her run but they figure it out and there is a HEA. I liked the second half better than the first. 3.5 stars.

Safety: Safe romance (view spoiler)
