



Untouchable

Sam Mariano

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The bully isn't supposed to win.

Senior year was off to a rough start: lube in my locker, panties on my front porch, unimaginative name-calling. See, I got a player suspended from the football team for harassing me, and in my small Texas town, you don't mess with the football players—even if they mess with you first.

I didn't care if it was an unpopular thing to do; I stood up for myself... and in doing so, opened Pandora's Box.

I never dreamed I would attract the attention of locally worshipped star quarterback, Carter Mahoney. Never imagined his coveted attention would turn out to be such a nightmare. Beneath his carefully constructed façade lurks a monster, a predator looking for the perfect prey to play with. Now, since I'm the girl no one likes or believes, I guess I'm the perfect target for his dark games and twisted desires.

After surviving my first encounter with his casual depravity, all I really want is for Carter to leave me alone.

But all he seems to want is me.

Warning: This book is provocative. It is categorized as DARK ROMANCE for a reason. It will not be for everyone. If you are a reader with certain triggers or sensitivities common to the dark romance genre, please heed the author's note at the beginning of this book.

Untouchable Details

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Author : Sam Mariano

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From Reader Review Untouchable for online ebook

Lana ❄️Dirty Girl Romance❄️ says

1 STAR

Some spoilers to follow...

It's terrifying, his disregard for right and wrong. The pleasure he gets out of making me powerless.

I have sat on the rating for this book for a solid week, totally and completely conflicted. On the one hand, the writing is solid and the story interesting enough to have me continuing after the HOLY SHIT DID I JUST READ WHAT I THINK I DID in the first 5%. Yes, the warning does a good job of preparing the reader and making them understand that this is not a typical angsty high school romance. It's dark (but not in the usual sense). Yes, the author does an incredible job of painting two very well developed characters that you can't help but be curious about. Yes, it had me reading well into the night to see how it all ends.

But...and this is a big BUT. I'm talking about the but of all butts here, people. You may argue with me that this is fiction. You may argue with me that you have to suspend your disbelief because you're reading a darker book. But here's the thing, no matter how you spin it, FOR ME, this book romanticizes sexual abuse. It is not, I repeat, NOT a dub con. It is sexual abuse. Pure and simple. And there is nothing dark, interesting, captivating, or intriguing about the hero to me. He's a rapey asshole. No matter how much the author tries to justify him, or explain his actions (and she does) at the end. He's not an anti-hero I can get behind, because there is just nothing redeemable about him to me.

I'll be honest, this is a book that you will either love, or hate. There is no middle ground. No gray area.

(view spoiler)

I'll let you think on that for a second here. Is that a character you can read about? If so, you'll fall into the side of readers that would love this book.

And if you're like me and couldn't see past this for the entirety of the book? Welp. I'll tell you that this book just isn't for you.

And here's the thing. He CONTINUES this behavior for the entire fucking book. (view spoiler)
And the heroine? No matter how smart, sassy, strong willed, or backboned she is...just takes it all.

Again, you'll say to me, but Lana, it's fiction, calm your tits.

And I'll say to you that what it is, is tone-deaf. It spins a tale of a completely fucked up rapey asshole and shows that all he needs, is to find a woman that "understands" him and doesn't want to change him. Because that's just who he is, and so long as she "gets him", it's all ok. And it's all ok because he only does that to her. He doesn't feel those urges towards any other ~~unsuspecting female victims~~ women. Just her.

And in the midst of the #MeToo movement, I'm quite honestly shocked that a book like this is written.

I'm not a delicate snowflake. I LOVE a dark romance and I've read my fair share. Just take a look at my

shelves. But this book is just not one I can get behind. The author is clearly a talented writer, and I'll be trying some of her other books. Sometimes a character just isn't for you, and this was that case for me. Again, it's a matter of taste. And as I've said, you'll either love or hate it. So read it and judge for yourself.

Find me on:

Fre06 Begum says

Need to think about this book, can't decide if I liked it or not.

Update;

Well since this is the fourth time I borrowed again from KU it means I must like it so I think my rating fits my feelings.

Snow says

Fuck it, this will probably be the 'unpopular' review and that's absolutely fine...

Cause these are also my personal thoughts intertwined with the impressions after reading this book...the book I, unfortunately, DIDN'T like!

Inspite Sam Mariano's writing and inspite her given warning about this book and its content...

It just reminded me of one similar book in recent past that irked my protective senses to full blast and I still firmly stand with my primar expressivness.

The said warning stated that this is a '**dark bully romance**' I instantaneously thought of *Penelope Douglas'* **Bully** (which I liked, obviously since I m mentioning it here) and I dived in...

BUT

The very first interaction between the two characters, that we soon capture as the main heroine *Zoey Ellis*, the nerdy, a bit shy and religious YA that decided to stand up for herself against a football player who gropped her without her given consent or permission and is now being cornered by the said player and two of his teammates and being sexually abused by one of them, *Carter Mahoney* the rich, prick quarterback and then being blackmailed into silence if she ever thought of reporting this to anyone...**DIDN'T sound like something worthy of consideration, yet I actually wanted to give this author a chance.**

So I went further...and absolutely got confused by the irrational (but later on, a very conscious) dislike of, now, both characters, cause now the heroine is fucking **curious** about this guy who basically "raped" her in front of his teammates but that 'issue' was somehow interpreted as 'rough sex'

insert huge fucking question mark

And she enters this weird, totally non-believable relationship with the said prick...

and then well, the author tries to pull it all into the romanticized bubble of unconventional sexual intercourse between two consenting YA BUT she also jumps into her own mouth by emphasizing the heroine's wording of "NO" and prick's final deaf ignore button and solely deciding to 'take what he wants' anyway...

So, I'm confused now by the final result, so is this supposed to be justified as being 'okay' cause it's under the 'dark' genre?

But why then intensifying and emphasizing the 'wrong' (cause make no mistake, it's actually the basis of doing wrong and criminal act)... And then trying to make it okay and pushing the 'nice' things about the prick so I would like the guy in the end...

Guess what? I didn't like him in the beginning and I disliked him even more in the end...

This book actually **irritated and frustrated** me to moon and back! (and my being poetic here doesn't diminish the state of anger I'm in)

By the end, and I damned my reading OCD complex *sigh* for needing to finish the book/project I started...

I found myself comparing this story with another questionable book I've read by K Webster (who I love as an author) that got such a negative hype on GR and FB and was so bloody stoned as a bad propaganda, and yes, I tried to explain to myself the wrongfully perceived events in that book and I concluded that **the author might have unintentionally acted without tact and with smudgy perception turned a story that was supposed to 'entertain' in the dark genre, it ended being cheap, offensive and tactless.**

Unfortunately, I found this story just as same as described in the sentence above.

Like I've said many times before, *the point of presenting the dark material it can't be based on gore, shock, twisted, depravation and torment alone, it really has to have a good base on which all these unconventional actions are built upon and then gradually grow towards something more or maybe less, depending on the intent of the author's storytelling.*

This story wasn't it for me in that regard.

In fact, it did the opposite of what it supposed to be delivering and the final result left me flat but angered at myself for reading.

You want to know something, Ellis? I've got bad news for you, so listen up. Sometimes people do bad shit to you, and they don't get punished; they get away with it. Hell, sometimes they get rewarded for it. If all this shit with Jake didn't show you that, if all this shit with me hasn't shown you that, maybe you're not as smart as you think you are.

Yeah, the words prick says to the heroine...actually do reflect the everyday life's situation...in someone's existence

but I somehow believe that fiction, dark fiction too, should at least give me a resemblance of an escapism to smth thrilling, forbidden, exciting but on a higher level than the immature bullying bordering with criminal offenses (if not for the fictional part) with even lower characterisation and

superficial trial of developing a romance.

Sorry. This just didn't work for me, and honestly I actually expected more. On every level.

But again, these are my thoughts alone and do not represent the general opinion so even if this didn't work for me, cause it's simply a thin line bonding the sphere of depravation and the touch of reality.

And it's hard to obtain that line when you want to make a difference...it can go both ways, it's either a success or a bust, and only details set them apart.

Stacy says

ALLTHE STARS!

I can't even with this book. WHAT AN AMAZING JOURNEY. This book is LONG, and I finished it so fast! These characters (especially Carter) will dig so deep into your heart that you'll be shocked you allowed it. Talk about dark and depraved behavior, holy crap. Carter is ALL the adjectives, ALL the bad ones. But yet, his sweet and tender moments are as intense as his horrific ones. And oh boy are they bad. Carter is on another level.

The main thing I took away from this story was that we all have different needs and desires. And those things come from places we might not be comfortable sharing. This wasn't a bully romance for me. It was just a story about a guy and a girl trying to find their place in the world. Maybe the guy a little less since he's such a cocky ass. But still. Everyone has an Achilles heel, and that's all I'm gonna say about that.

Carter is seriously devious and horrible, and he does A LOT of crappy things, but I couldn't hate him. I just couldn't. In fact I loved him so much that I actually got mad at the heroine sometimes. What kind of person does that make me? Either way, this author has me wrapped around her pinky because I'm now going to read every book she's ever written! I COULD NOT PUT THIS BOOK DOWN, and I'm so extremely grateful that I have the best book friends in the world who recommended this to me♥?

Cristina | CristiinaReads says

⇒ *What the heck did I just read... WHAT THE HECK JUST HAPPENED?!*

⇒ I am very well aware of the **warning the author provides in the synopsis, however, the fact that someone wants to write about the lack of consent during sexual encounters** as a motivation to have the reader reading more of said story is something that I am trying to find out why it is in any way okay. When a **girl, or a boy says "no", "stop that", "can you please stop?", "do not touch me!"**, that right there states to back off, step away and to just not touch. It doesn't mean "Oh keep going because I like it when you touch me without my permission..."

⇒I mean, I am all for **jerk hero's that turn into mush once they meet their partner, their mate, their one true love. I did not want to read halfway through this story and give up and rate it because I am not one who likes to just DNF a novel and give it a rating** if I didn't properly finish it. So now that I did finish it, I can officially say this is by far the worst book I have read this year. What a way to come to the end of the year am I right? I honestly do not know what Sam Mariano was thinking. If wanting to portray to the reader that a bad jock, who is rich and gets everything he wants and does not get **"no's" from anyone can get a sweet virgin girl who will bend for his will was the message she wanted to get through, maybe she should not have had that first encounter** of the first and second chapter be of three guys taking advantage, both physically and emotionally or a virgin girl when she was constantly saying "no." I do not like to use the "R" word that rhymes with **tape**, but that is what the main male character in this story was very close on doing.

⇒Once he got her to trust him, **he slowly started drawing his walls down so he can let her in and she could let him in as well. But I do not like how the process of her getting there went.** There was a lot of confusion because sometimes I did enjoy their banter, when he stated a set of claim on her whenever he kissed her, whenever he got jealous. That's something that **I truly enjoy in a male character, but I do not like the way he was when wanting to stake control over her.** Especially when she was in a vulnerable state of mind that should have sent a trigger to back away and to stop.

⇒Overall just to recap everything, if you like main characters that just want to take **without any consent** then this is your book. But I would never recommend this book after fully reading it. When I first read the synopsis, I instantly sent it to my friend Vic but now I regret it one hundred percent. **I fully support authors who spend time writing a novel because it is indeed something that requires time to do,** but when the story has a message of non-consensual sex tan I am out the door... Very disappointed.

⇒**Follow Me On:**

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Rejane says

That warning: ????? ????? ?????????????????????? Some authors should not write things they cannot pull off. ??????????????????

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

And ??????????????????????

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

And: ?? How come?? I agree with the reviewer

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Terri Lynn says

Print Length: 541 pages

Publication Date: December 16, 2018

Free to download with Kindle subscription or \$3.99 to buy.

52 Chapters — Epilogue.

A football player, not the Hero, violates heroine. Of course, they want her to drop the charges so he can proceed to play football.

For making a big deal about him ignoring my rejection and doing it anyway.

Jake Parsons wanted you? You should have been flattered.

You're going to tell them you were confused, upset, you made a mistake.

The guys violate her again while trying to make her lie. It's horrible, especially because Carter and Zoey will end up with a happy for now ending.

It's so horrible how these boys treat her in the first couple of chapters that I cannot add it into my review or Amazon will remove it.

"No," I cry, tears burning behind my eyes. "Please. Please don't hurt me."

It gets worse. Carter — The Hero — Forces Zoey — The Heroine to go down on him. And it's nasty — raw.

I love dark romance, but these days dark romance is being pushed entirely too far. Self-published authors have given dark romance — jerks — alphas, a whole new meaning, and I despise it.

I have read many dark romance books, and have enjoyed them. I love a jerk who has a touch of a cruel side, then falls in love and nothing else in the world matters to him, except the love of his life. But, there is nothing to love about this Hero.

What's worse is the authors who write trash like this and add it to romance because there is nothing lovable about a plot like this. Heroes like Carter are not redeemable. There is nothing romantic about a woman being raped, tortured, and then falls in love with her rapist. And that's what this is.

I truly think it is an insult to a woman who has been raped. I believe those women will tell you; they can still smell that guy's breath on them. Or how dirty they still feel years after. And that is why I find it unbelievable when Heroes like Carter have a Happy for now ending with their victim. It's a shame that so many self-published authors are adding it to romance these days just to make it dark. I mean, get creative, and create a real Jerk, a real fucking alpha, because nothing is fucking sweet about this. I cannot consider this a romance book.

Books with a plot like this, the heroine should have gone on another path that didn't involve her rapist. A real Hero should have been created to rescue her and steal the reader's heart.

It's unbelievable that someone like him can treat someone like that, and yet she agrees to marry him. I cannot

picture someone who has been humiliated and tortured the way Zoey was in this book and to act the way she did and agree to marry the man who has hurt her.

I love dark erotic romance, but I will have to stay away from them because this is too much. Dark romance has a new theme added to them, and I cannot bear to read them anymore.

If you have suffered from the situation in this book, I would advise you not to read it. I think it would be disturbing. I read the trigger warning, and have never been in a situation that occurred in this book, and pray to God I never will be, but it was disturbing for me because of how the plot unfolded. It made me so angry as if it were a joke.

The Book Bee says

REVIEW: 4.5 Stars

“Do you know what you’ve done, princess? You just gave me the keys to the kingdom. There’s no stopping me now.

FIRST AND FOREMOST: There is a warning on this book for a VERY good reason. Not necessarily a trigger warning, but a warning nonetheless. This book gets very twisted very quickly.

If you think this is about a spoiled hero that only wants the one girl that ignores him and fights him off, you're correct.

Just kidding.

It's not.

It's so much more....depraved.

"Carter Mahoney is not for the faint of heart."

When an author can tell me a story and make me put myself in the shoes of the character's POV I am reading, that is awesome - it's great. I love it. When an author can make me empathize with the **antihero** in the book, that is amazing. But to make me cheer him on?? To make me want him to succeed in his quest?? What the heck?? Either I am SICK, because this is not ok - or she is just bringing out the depravity in **ME**. Ok, she's not (*let's laugh together - we are laughing, right?*), but I couldn't help but question myself the entire time I read this book. What is wrong with me?? *Whyyyy* do I like this so much?? I wanted him to get his girl!! Who thinks that way when they are doing things they should **n-e-v-e-r** get away with!?!? After reading this book, I'm convinced I have issues.

I've decided my new word is: **WRON(G)OOD**

I kid you not, I wrote that on so many messages and FB posts I made about this book because it's so wrong, but it's sooo good, and it's wrong that it's so good - so that can't be good, right? That's SOOO wrong, right?? Help...

Sam Mariano did an excellent job capturing the fear and the anger, as well as the warring emotions that come into play during and after a traumatizing experience, but she also made me empathize and understand *why*

certain actions were reasoned the way they were. These characters are teenagers in their senior year of high school, so while *you and I* obviously have hindsight as adults to make smart(er) decisions, I didn't think anything was overly dramatic or stupid, which was very helpful for me to get through this one. The mindset of a teenager isn't always easy to capture in a book without them sounding like immature brats (sorry), and I most definitely feel like this one was written very well because I didn't ever feel like rolling my eyes because of drama. It was real teenage decisions and drama, relevant to their age group - so appreciative of that.

"I can make you do a lot of things, but I can't make you trust me."

I cannot believe Sam Mariano made me fall in love with an asshole. I'm serious. I found it interesting and pretty impressive that she could turn my own feelings on me. She made me validate everything, right or wrong. I mean, how can I feel this way about Carter!? I truthfully don't understand how I can feel this way about him. But see, there is *always* a reason. There is always a reason we fall in love with these....*"heroes"*, right? As bad as Carter was, there was a side to him that just made me go to mush. And as mean and brash and insulting as Zoey was to Carter (rightfully so), I absolutely loved how he handled it. His comments and his actions were, for all intents and purposes, bad - but the other side of him made me smile and laugh. His demeanor brought out the *sigh* that he never should have received from me - but I can't say he didn't deserve that *sigh* either. He was confident and smart, he had the all-American good looks and great athletic ability, and to add to it - he had charisma. I could see every single thing in this book happening.....every single thing. And for there to be some reality behind this book so that I could connect and relate, that most certainly helped my *non-high-school-books-reading* frame of mind. Set in a small town in Texas that clearly rode on their high school football team's coattails for Friday Night Fun, this one played out like a movie I would LOVE to see on the screen.

"One fucking mistake is not who I am, and it damn sure isn't the sum total of our fucking relationship."

It's probably wrong to love a book with this type of content as much as I did, but I am not even ashamed to admit it. Was their relationship healthy? Probably not in the eyes of many, but who am I to judge? It worked for *them*. No, I am not romanticizing anything with this review, nor am I okay'ing any type of lascivious behavior. I am just going to say that while I **know** this was fiction, I also know that I am completely in love with Zoey and Carter's story and how it worked out for *them*. This one tested my moral compass on every level possible, not gonna lie. Because, why...how could I cheer on this bully that used any, and I mean **ANY** (<-- *bold and capitalized*) means necessary to get what he wanted, when he wanted it? The darkness of the book never scared me. Not even a little bit. The twistedness, the remorseless way in which Carter unapologetically exacted his revenge and got what he wanted made me *whispers* giddy. WHAT!!? I know, right? Innocent Bee loving the morally corrupt high school senior quarterback. I'm doomed.

But I'm ready for more. **rubs hands** I am ready to jump into more of Mariano's books, because if she has to ability to twist me up and captivate me like this, I am on board.

"I'll never be the safe bet, Zoey."

~BEE

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Paperback Purchase Link: <https://amzn.to/2AEswk6>

ENTER HERE FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN AN ECOPY: <http://bit.ly/2FIFMOr>
(giveaway goes live later today, January 10th)

Tianna★loves books★ says

[The first scene itself the H is sexually harassing the h. In fact, he and two of his friends are harassing her. One of the guy in them is someone who already has sexual assault charges on him by the h. They are all forcing her to take back her statement so that the guy is free to play football again. But the scene takes a different turn when the H

Elfina Renee says

I've hated other villains before, that comes with the explosive creative talents of the writer. What they make you feel, how believable their story-lines are and how you're able to connect and sympathize with the other characters. Sam Mariano and her extraordinary talents does that and more. Five condom flicking stars!

Think most of us can relate to bullies....we've seen them ourselves or experienced their cruelties. Reading some of the methods utilized, manipulation, intimidation, terrorization and utter control of their victims while observers cheers, stand in the sidelines turning a blind eye to their actions is about as real as it gets.

The title Untouchable says it all.....Dark.....sinister, disturbing, yeah this amazing author bring it all to life. The question to you fellow reviewers; will you be team Carter Mahoney or will I'll be the minority class thinking of hand crank meat grinders and slow impending castration?

Deniz says

I was drawn in the minute I started the book and found it difficult to put down.I must admit reading the beginning of this book was difficult. It does have triggers, so if it's not your thing then this book isn't for you.

You may hate hero in the beginning but you will grow to love him.

This is a different love story. I have read a few dark romances before but i have to say this will be on my top list.

It was raw and brokenly beautiful story .

I absolutely loved it. I highly recommend it!!!!

Vivian says

"Does it turn you on to think of me as helpless?"

"For me." he specifies. "Not helpless in general, only for me."

I have a feeling I am going to sound like I'm talking out of my ass with this review because I have SO MANY thoughts to type out that I can barely keep things straight, but here goes nothing...

"I love his twisted ways. Carter may be difficult to maneuver sometimes, but he fascinates me." (You and me both, Zoey. You and me both)

I just finished this book today...after being CONSUMED by it for the last 3 days. I would literally STEAL moments of privacy to read this book. I would read it in the bathroom (no shame), on my way to the mailbox, right before work if I showed up early. I woke up at 330 am to read, just another chapter. That ended up being a LONG day because of course I didn't go back to sleep, I'm not a quitter. LOL. You get the picture, I would read this book any spare minute I had because I NEEDED to keep reading. I NEEDED to know what other twisted scenarios would happen.

I'm typically not a dark romance reader. Yes, I've ventured into that type of romance before, but I usually steer away from it. BUT after all the noise this particular dark story was making on social media (and among my book besties), I HAD to see what all the fuss was about. I decided that this book would be the one to "dip my toes back into the darkness". Well...there was no *DIPPING*, I was **PLUNGED** into the darkness within the first 3 chapters and it took the entire book to work my way out! **Sam Mariano didn't just push the envelope with this story, she OBLITERATED it.** This book truly puts "bullying" on a whole new level for me.

"With Carter, you can only tap out if you literally can't take anymore. Anything before a hard limits fair game."

Let me say this, this book is NOT for the faint of heart. If you're looking for rainbows and kittens and a Prince Charming fluff story, this book is NOT for you. BUT...if you're craving for something to test your boundaries. To explore a darker romance, one that is like no other. If you want something that WILL push your limits and have you twisted up inside while reading. Have your heart racing. Have your jaw dropping with "WTF" "Oh no that did NOT just happen" moments. Have you CONSUMED with the need to know what could possibly happen next. Then this is DEFINITELY the book for you. #AngstGalore

You MUST go into the story with an OPEN MIND and read it for what it is...a journey. A journey of finding THE ONE that speaks to and sees your darkness, and likes to play within that darkness. Finding THE ONE you're allowed to drop your mask with. *"I spend every day of my life with people who like the look of a mask I wear, Zoey. You're the only person who likes what's underneath better."* Finding THE ONE who can love you BECAUSE of who you are inside. Finding THE ONE who can challenge you and push your comfort zones because without high risks, there are no high rewards. Carter and Zoey do that for each other. *"Carter's exploration of my boundaries is hard, because he's forcing me to be brutally honest--not just with him, but myself. He won't let me have a comfort zone."* If you can look at their story and not compare it to real life, then you will enjoy this book for what it is, a boy finding a girl who loves him for who he is.

If you take my advice and go into this book with an open mind, you will hate to love Carter. TRUST ME! In the back of my mind, I kept asking myself, *"Why don't I hate him? He's such an a**hole! And so arrogant! And MEAN! He's just a motherf*cker!"* LOL. He had me swearing a LOT in my mind. (I have little children so I had to censor myself LOL). Carter isn't looking for you to love him, he's looking for you to SEE him and Zoey see's him. He's the type of character that gets what he wants and if he wants it bad enough, he LITERALLY takes it. But then there's Zoey, she holds her own and meet's Carter's challenges with her own. She eventually shows him he can take what he wants from her, because she's willing to give it. Zoey was such a fiercely strong character...I admired her and was glad she had a backbone and never wavered on her

stance. She was a true match for Carter!

I'm not going to say that this book was an easy read, but it's a journey...these two characters had a story to tell and they didn't shy away from it, Sam didn't shy away from it. You need to push past some of the tougher scenes and keep going. Their story is worth it!

This my first novel from Sam and she sure blew me out of the water. She did an extraordinary job of telling this sensitive story. This story was truly unexpected. I went into blind, living off of the high from all the enthusiasm surrounding it and I can wholeheartedly say that that enthusiasm is warranted....this book is the real deal.

"He might like to call me his plaything, but he doesn't look at me like a toy. He looks at me like a treasure. Like the heavens opened up and dropped me into his lap, and he's forever grateful for the gift, even if he doesn't express it in words. Even if his way of loving is sometimes brutal and scarring, even if he is more predator than prince, somehow he is the perfect fit for me."

6 stars

****AUTHORS NOTE AT THE BEGINNING OF UNTOUCHABLES:**

Please, please take me seriously when I say this is a BULLY romance.

This book contains some dark sh*t, and if you have sexual violence/abuse triggers, this may not be a good fit for you. I know where the *characters'* limits are, but you know your own sensitivities much better than I do. Carter Mahoney is not a comfortable hero, and this is not always a comfortable love story. If you need safe, good-guy heroes in every romance you read, this is not the story for you. These characters have their own unique damage, needs, desires, and proficiencies, and they are seeking out partners who fit them as they are, not partners who need them to change and be something they're not.

I have very much enjoyed Carter and Zoey's story, so I hope you will too, but I want to make sure I've warned/prepared you adequately ;) Carter Mahoney is not for the faint of heart.

Dilek VT says

This is a book I should never touch - untouchable, indeed, in that sense!

The H sexually assaults the h. It's almost a RAPE.

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Claypot_Reads - Michelle says

This one made it into my 6 star read shelf ????????????

Stop what you're doing and get this book!!! My girls Allie and Rea had been bugging me to read this one and last night I gave in and thank fuck I did. I was up until 4am reading it. Sleep was nowhere near as important as this book!!!

HOLY SHITBALLS it's EPIC!!! Definitely not for the faint of heart but if you like your characters complex, your storylines original and your heroines kick ass then this one's for you. The angst is OFF THE CHARTS!!! There are definitely tough subjects handled but the author does it in such a respectful way that you are constantly pondering what you would do in that position. What decision you would make? Nothing is simple and nothing is as it seems. Zoey has gone into my Favourite Heroines folder - she's strong and brave and smart and I girl crush her hard! Carter... well Carter is a seriously complicated and messed up guy. There were points I HATED him, points he broke my heart and points that he made me swoon.

This book caused me to seek out the author and send her a rambling voice message and to also throw my Ipad - you know it's only the 3rd time I've ever done that so I'm not playing around...

I have already done my Top 20 Reads of 2018 but I'm changing it to Top 21 reads cause this one HAS to be included. It's that FREAKING AMAZING!!!!

Please trust me. Read it. Message me and I can relive it again. I know I will reread it - I always do with favourite reads and this one is a FOREVER FAVOURITE

Jessica-👉Chatterbooks Book Blog👈 says

Holy fucking shit! That's what I thought as I read the beginning of Untouchable by Sam Mariano. The first scene between the main characters, Carter and Zoey, is more than just uncomfortable. It's sick, twisted, and fucked up on a level I've never seen in a book about high school students. In fact, the entire book is.

I'm not going to lie or sugarcoat this. If you have ever read a book and disliked it, because you thought the hero was abusive or the couple's relationship was toxic, back away slowly now. No. Fuck that. Run! Run away and never look back! I'm serious. Don't even bother picking up this book. You will hate it. I think anyone that reads this and wants to enjoy it has to be extremely curious, open minded, and/or love dark, fucked up relationships.

The purpose of this review is not to scare every reader away. Normally, I don't do much warning in reviews at all. I just feel like this one needs it though. It's better to find out if a book is going to be a huge bust for you before you dive into it if you can help it. It's also better for the author.

Basically, this story has the potential to piss a lot of people off. That's just a fact. The author knew that when she wrote it. She has a warning in the beginning of the book itself, so I don't feel bad expressing this now. Now that we've got that out of the way, let's get into my thoughts on this one!

I've read a lot of Sam Mariano's previous work. It's clear she loves her asshole alpha heroes. I love them, too. It's probably a big part of why I've enjoyed all of her books in the past. She also has a knack for writing characters that you can both love and hate at the same time. I've never seen an author do this the way she does. She's kind of fucking brilliant in that way actually.

However, when I started reading this book, I didn't think she could get me to read past chapter 2. What Carter does to Zoey is absolutely disgusting and flat out unforgivable. There's no two ways about it.

I whole heartedly believe there was nothing Sam could do to completely redeem him to me. That's the thing about her though. She almost never completely redeems her characters (at least the ones I've read about). It's that simple. What she does is finds heroines that are perfect for them just the way they are, and that's exactly what she did here.

Not only did I read past chapter 2, I read almost the whole damn book in one night! It's over 500 pages! Her writing style sucked me in completely. The interactions between the characters are just so interesting that I couldn't stop reading. I had to know where the author was going to take the story after all of the horrible shit that happened between them in the beginning of the book. Obviously, I knew they were going to probably end up together. I mean, this is romance after all. Exactly how the fuck that was going to happen was what kept me intrigued.

Both characters infuriated me time and time again, but after a while, no matter how fucked up and wrong it was....I wanted them to end up together. That being said, I wish Carter would have been more sorry for what he did. Hell, I wish Zoey would have lit his house on fire with him in it instead of starting a relationship, but neither one of those things happened. Thankfully, Sam found another way for things to end that left me feeling satisfied.

In the end, Zoey and Carter are perfect for one another. She is just strong enough and crazy enough to challenge him, keep his interest, and deal with his emotional issues. He is morally challenged, emotionally scarred, and messed up enough mentally to peak her academic interest and tug at her heart strings. On top of that, they are sexually compatible in every way.

Their intense chemistry made for some scorching hot sex scenes! Overall, it's a match made in crazy town, but by the end, I was cool with it. Both parties understood what they were getting into and were truly happy.

Bottomline, I enjoyed this book despite the fact that I think Zoey is insane for forgiving him and attempting

any type of relationship academic or otherwise. In real life, I would never be okay with this type of relationship, but lucky for me, this is fiction!

One of the things I love about fiction is that it has different rules than we do in the real world. Not every story has to have a moral or an inspirational message. Some stories are just for fun, to make you think, to explore unique situations and complicated characters, or to make your panties wet from laughing or because it's hot af. This is one of those books, and I enjoyed reading it.

I recommend this to readers of dark and extremely unconventional romance with damaged characters and anyone that isn't concerned about my warning, the author's warning, or warnings in general.

ARC generously provided by the author for an honest review.
