



Full Circle

Kaje Harper

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It may be better to have loved and lost, twice, than never loved at all, but it sure as hell gets lonely. Jamison Severs is sitting in a bar contemplating his past as a failed lover, failed doctor, failed drunkard, and a fading old man, trying to find a reason not to lift that glass. Then a beautiful blond boy walks in the door, bringing reminders of Jamie's past with him. Meeting the son of Jamie's former lover, Toller, brings back the good old days, and the bad. And maybe it's finally time for Jamie to come to terms with all the things that brought him and Toller together, and the things that broke them apart.

Full Circle Details

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From Reader Review Full Circle for online ebook

Kaje Harper says

I thought it might be helpful to prospective readers for me to put a note out here saying that this is not really a romance short in the classic sense. There is romance here and sex and pain and love and even a happy ending. But this is not a story about two men who find each other forever. If you need a HEA, don't read this one. If you like a bittersweet story about the different ways love can work itself out, then give *Full Circle* a try.

Karla says

BEAUTIFUL! This is not a romance, it is a LOVE story. It's short, but every word holds meaning. I was overjoyed for Toller, but when I read what Jamie had done with his life, it took the breath right out of me, and that's when the full impact of the story hit me. The book's title promises and delivers...two lives that come **full circle!**

Amy says

This book just left me feeling sad and depressed. It's not your typical love story and there's no HEA for our main character. There is sex, but it's not terribly hot or romantic. This is a story about lost love, grief, illness, addiction, child abuse, and loneliness.

It was very well written and so full of emotion for being such a short novella. I will definitely read more from Kaje Harper!

Serena Yates says

There are stories that rip my heart apart and make me cry, yet they are also so good I want to read them again immediately after having suffered through them the first time – because they are so good. 'Full Circle' is an excellent example of this type of tale. It's a story about love, and despair, and hope, and reconciliation. It had me wanting the kind of ending I knew it could never have, and even though I was "disappointed" because I did not get what I wished for, I have to admit that what I got instead was so much better. It's not a traditional happy ending, it had me crying for what Jaime lost, and yet it was perfect just the way it was.

Giving any more details about this emotional roller coaster would spoil the story, so you'll have to read it yourself for the full effect. I think it is amazing and I know that I won't soon forget it.

NOTE: This book was provided by MLR Press for the purpose of a review.

Chris says

Excellent, poignant short m/m story about a drunk who rescues a very sick and homeless young man from the street. While the story covers a lot more ground, you really need to just let this tale of redemption unfold for you. I did spend the last third of the book crying... and be aware that the ending, while not a conventional HEA, is hopeful.

dammit, liz says

Beautiful little novella. Kaje writes some lovely stuff. This is more about the healing than romance though. The ending was pretty painfully bittersweet, but I'm glad I read this. There's a lot to this for being so short. The characters go through a pretty incredible journey, overcoming trauma, addiction, and loss. If you feel like a short read and a good cry, this is a good one. Biggest complaint is that it's 4 bucks for an eighty something page novella.

♣ Irish Smurfétté ♣ says

Full reviewage on Prism Book Alliance® on retro read Saturday

Kaje Harper knows how to weave a tale. It's true of this story and any other of hers I've read. She sucked me into this one with the initial meeting between Jamie and Heath. She held me there with Jamie's telling of how he and Heath's father, Toller, met, and more.

The first time I looked up while reading this, I was nearly half way through. Like I said, she got me.

The bulk of this story is Jamie recounting the how, where, why, and what then of the time he and Toller spent together. The challenges of dealing with major loss and suffering, how easy it is to fail, and how some of those failures, even if not truly their fault, lead to paths filled with more pain. He also gives Heath the truth about triumph, love and all of the many layers it can hold, and that we try to make the best decisions we can.

I'm finding it difficult to express much more than this, both in fear of giving too much away and for the lump in my throat.

This is emotional, gripping, and ultimately hopeful. A life-changing chapter in the lives of two people, which then leads to possibilities and opportunities taken by many in the future.

I stayed awake the whole night through, storing each breath and each touch to remember.

Thank you, Kaje Harper, for this loving, bittersweet, and important story about forgiveness and reconnection. My only wish is that there had been more.

PS: Soooooo, think we'll ever get more of these fantastic characters?

Tamela says

Reading for 2014 Pushing Boundaries Challenge. I had to read a story that didn't have an HFN or HEA. NOT one of my favorite things. But I got lucky and chose Kaje Harper's Full Circle from the list.

Great characters. I felt so bad for Jamie but even though he was broken he couldn't pass by someone who needed help. Toller got lucky when Jamie almost tripped over him. The fact that Toller had a happy ending was good for me and hopefully now that they are talking I'm hoping they can be friends!!

So kind of a HEA

Ami says

This is a beautiful and thoughtful piece of writing. But before I get to my opinion, I need to put a HUGE warning. No, this is not a romance (not traditional kind anyway). You will not find a story of boy meets boy, boy falls in love with boy, and boy lives happily ever after with boy. This story is a reminiscence of love that "might be" and how in the end, it still might come as full circle.

Jamison Severs, 50+ years director, of a free clinic only has two great loves in his life. One died of AIDS. The other one, he let go 23 years ago. Now, the teenage son of that second love came to him in searching for a full story about what had happened to his Dad, and it brings Jamison back in memory to those 300-days of loving Toller Grange.

Jamison was already in his early 30's when he met Toller. An 18-year old teenager who experienced abuse and Jamie helped Toller back to his feet, and lived. Those days of being with Toller, how Jamie cared for him, the first kiss, the first lovemaking, the decision to let Toller found his life in university, those were like gorgeous pictures and squeezed my heart.

So, any of you ever watched "*500 Days of Summer*"? If you have, you will understand the melancholia I feel when I read this story. It's beautiful but at the same time, you get the melancholy sense, knowing that no, Jamison and Toller are not together at present. That Toller has his life and happy. But I think, in the end, I would like to think that Jamison is content as well, and having Toller's son approached him brings Jamison to become another set of a future, where he is back to the life of his beloved, as friend, a family.

It's a lovely writing and I definitely will have Kaje Harper on my top-authors list.

Dani says

[For example, Toller expressing sympathy for his abuser's inclinations after topping for the first time because "it f

Feliz says

As the author said it herself, this is not a romance, though it has romantic elements and, not to be forgotten, some hot erotic scenes. This story is all about hurt/ comfort and the healing powers of love, and yet it's as different from the usual similarly-themed fare as night from day. Where other stories use the "if you love it, set it free" trope merely to create some angst in preparation of the big reunion, this story follows through with it to the bitter end. I found this admirably consequent, realistic, and very, very well done. Convincing, too – it fits both characters to the minute detail.

Although the characterizations were as consistent as the plot, I had slight problems with the character of Jamie. Though he changed from a self-pitying, self-destructive Saulus to a mature, reasonable Paulus, and though this process was beautiful to watch, he lost me later with his self-inflicted loneliness. Some kind of love/hate issue with a character, I guess, and it was probably only me, but I just don't do martyrs. It was really mostly the way he interacted with Heath, Toller's son, what saved Jamie for me.

Toller, on the other hand, was fantastic. Given room to grow, he unfolded like a flower, and I could totally believe him turning into the proud, self-sufficient man as who he was pictured in the end. He's someone who doesn't want nor need charity, but can accept a generous gift with grace and put it to the best use, his own and the giver's. A personality you'd like to see your own kids grow up to be.

The writing was gripping, smooth and well-paced; the story pulled me in right from the first sentence. Toller's dreadful past isn't glossed over, but revealed little by little, which made it bearable for me – alongside with the characters. Again, very well done. And if the forefinger of morale shows time and again, what about it? It fits the story. If I have one niggle it was that the characters had to suffer so much – I wanted to shout, too much! – even if I'm aware there are even worse fates out there.

This isn't a light and fluffy read, the book deals with serious issues like loss of loved ones, AIDS, rape, abuse, and addiction, and it DOES have a nontraditional (though hopeful and positive) ending. It was still a beautiful story, and it certainly will stay with me for a long time. Warmly recommended.

Full review at www.reviewsbyjessewave.com

Baba says

4 bittersweet stars.**Review posted July 19, 2013**

I closed the book with mixed feelings. It's a beautiful little read but it made me a tiny bit sad. My review is going to be short and sweet.

Chicago, present day

Jamison Seavers, close to sixty, is in a bar nursing his Coke when a very young man addresses him. It's Heath Grange, the adopted son of Toller Grange. Toller is Jamison's former protégée and lover, and they

parted ways ages ago when Toller had to start college and became a (view spoiler) Now Heath is here to hear his father's "story" because they've had an argument over his choice of academic study and in the heat of the moment Heath's dad told him that Jamison knew everything about him.

"You have two dads?"

"Sure. Toller and Tris. Dad is gay." The boy's smooth forehead wrinkled perplexedly. "You know that. You are Jamie?"

"Guess so." Better, that was a least better. "I just figured there was a woman in there somewhere. I did study biology once."

Jamison didn't want to hit on Toller. On top of that he wasn't even sure if Toller was gay...

"What do you think of those two?" I asked, about to comment on the size double-Es.

"Way too much muscle," Toller said. "I don't like guys who look so top-heavy they might tip over. Although the little jazz beard was cute."

"The blonde was kind of pretty," I said mildly.

"I guess. I didn't really notice."

I grinned to myself and put that worry away. My boy was gay, all right.

(view spoiler)

Full Circle tells us the story how Jamison met Toller. Both of them had their own demons to deal with and 'healed' each other during a timespan of 300 days. The author did a very good job adding depth to the plot as well as the characters within fifty-five pages. Written very solidly, this little emotional and heartwarming read provides a bittersweet ending. Reading the blurb reveals a lot, and yet I wasn't prepared for the impact the book had on me. Somehow I didn't expect to feel sad (view spoiler)

Let's make good memories because they will tide us over when things aren't that great and we will always remember. It's a precious gift.

Recommended read.

P.S.

The name Seavers seems to be misspelled in the blurb (Severs). I did a check, and *Seavers* has been mentioned four times in the book.

Susan says**4.5 Stars**

WOW. I didn't have this one on my radar. What a pleasant surprise!

Full Circle is a poignant, beautiful story...a story about hurt, loss, healing...and mostly, about love.

Jamie was a broken man rescued from his own grief and self-destruction by a young Toller who he saves off the streets, battling his own demons and abuse. They grow to care about each other and both start on the road to healing. 23 years later, we get to hear their tale...

An amazing story told in <100 pages. Tears shed...this will stick with me for some time, I'm certain.

Not your traditional HEA, but one nonetheless...in it's own way...

If you're curious, but uncertain about what I mean, read the author's own comments about the book...she says it best: <http://www.goodreads.com/review/show/...>

Bev says

What a treasure this was...definitely *not* a romance, this is a story of abuse, anger, loss and hopefully some sort of redemption for the main character.

The main character Jamie has a past of his own which explains why he is like he is, but this story also features Toller and Toller's adopted son Heath. It's a beautiful, beautiful story...yes, it made me weep...with sadness **and** with happiness at the end. Very highly recommended, thanks Kaje.

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

[No HEA for our main character, I'm afraid. (hide spoiler)]
