



Chasing Shadows

Annabelle Jacobs

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Jamie Matthews goes to Cornwall to find his missing brother. The police are convinced Michael drowned, but Jamie knows better. No way would Michael swim to his death, especially on a beach with a wicked rip tide. Finding a stranger in his brother's cottage only deepens his misgivings.

Felix Bergstrom is recently discharged from the British Army. Unable to put the past behind him, he takes an unhealthy interest in old acquaintance and millionaire businessman Karl Weston, hoping to catch him up to no good. Michael's disappearance adds fuel to Felix's suspicions. Weston's clifftop home overlooks the beach where Michael supposedly walked into the sea, but Weston has an alibi for that day.

When Jamie and Felix meet, the physical attraction is instant. Mistrust keeps them from acting on it until finally all their secrets are laid bare. But time isn't on their side. Before they're able to work out whether they have a future, danger catches up with them and threatens to put an end to everything.

approx 60,000 words

Chasing Shadows Details

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Author : Annabelle Jacobs

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From Reader Review Chasing Shadows for online ebook

Melissa Mendoza says

Title:Chasing Shadows

Author:Annabelle Jacobs

Series:

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Reviewer:Melissa

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Blurb:

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When Jamie and Felix meet, the physical attraction is instant. Mistrust keeps them from acting on it until finally all their secrets are laid bare. But time isn't on their side. Before they're able to work out whether they have a future, danger catches up with them and threatens to put an end to everything.

Review:

"The memory of Felix's mouth on his sent an unexpected jolt of warmth through him and he latched onto that feeling. Maybe it was the last thing he should be thinking about, all things considered, but the idea of doing it again pushed all the other crap to the back of his mind. He needed that."

5 mysterious stars!! This book will leave you on the edge of your seat, needing answers!!! So insanely good!

Jamie is in search of his missing brother. He's gotten some information from the police saying that his brother Michael drowned, but Jamie knows his brother better than that. And when he shows up to Michael's house and finds a stranger there, his suspicions deepen. Felix has been released from the British Army, still dealing with that he spends his time looking up an old friend Karl, knowing he can catch him in some sort of scheme. He's convinced that Karl had something to do with Michael's disappearance, he's doing everything to prove that. Jamie and Felix start to work together to figure out what happened to Michael, and the

chemistry between these two is undeniable. It's electric. And just as they are about to discover the heat between themselves, they find danger lurking around the corner.

Wow, what an intense book!! I love a good twisted book and this one was definitely it!! It was sexy in all the right parts and twisted in all the others! It will keep you guessing at every turn and then gasping for more in the others! This book is an absolute must read!!

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

Otterpuss says

3.5 stars

I really enjoy Annabelle Jacob's writing style. I love how she sets the scene and that her books are set in England.

Felix and Jamie are great together and I loved the relationship between Felix, Adam and Nick.

It pains me to say this but...Honestly?

I found the mystery part of this story disappointing.

The mystery surrounding Michael's disappearance was...not particularly mysterious and Karl Weston was portrayed almost as a cartoon villain whilst the 'climax' to the story involving the scene at Weston's house was underwhelming and a little bit silly.

The best part of this story is Felix and Jamie's romance so if romance is what you love in a book this one is for you. If you prefer the mystery side I'd give this one a miss.

Lily says

4.3*

I always enjoy Annabelle's writing style and storytelling. From the start of this thrilling read, her main characters pull you in and you want to find out what happened to Michael. You feel Jamie's grief (along with his parents) for the missing younger brother and you sympathise with his determination not to accept that Michael is dead as he clings to the hope of finding out what really happened to him. Through Jamie and Felix, Annabelle draws you into the Cornish countryside and seascape. You visualise the cottage with ease and the surrounding locations that Michael enjoyed sketching.

Jamie's search for clues to his brother's mysterious disappearance leads him directly to Felix, who is also on a mission to discover facts concerning the recent death of an army friend. Despite a shaky start to their acquaintance, Jamie and Felix gradually fall for each other, despite the guilt they feel over the reason they met in the first place. The arrival of Felix's buddies helps to lighten the tension between them and the

tongue-in-cheek comments about their would-be relationship provide some amusing moments.

I particularly enjoyed the sizzling sexual chemistry as it develops throughout the romance arc of this story and the eventual hot smexing scenes. I also enjoyed the 'angsty' moments, too, as any possibility of a future relationship undergoes some doubt.

The mystery plot has its tense and suspense-filled moments and culminates in an exciting scene with the 'baddie'. Although the conclusion to the overall mystery is not fully explained in enough detail, the ending of the romance story is very enjoyable and the epilogue is lovely and definitely HFN.

Review also posted on Gay Book Reviews

<http://gaybook.reviews/2016/03/23/lil...>

Rennie says

This was so good!

Anke says

3.5 stars

It was a really great read, but what I found rather peculiar was: although the vanishing of Michael was the reason behind this whole story, it's solution then was dealt with one or two measly sentences, same with the reason why it all happened. That whole part of the storyline was handled rather poorly.

Claude says

A sweet book! I really like the end! It's a instant love (a weekend love if you want) beetwen these two. One man's searching for his brother and the other man is searching for revenge :) The end was partially previsible and i like it :)

Annie ~ Queer Books Unbound says

Reviewed for From Top to Bottom Reviews.

A COPY OF THIS BOOK WAS PROVIDED BY THE AUTHOR IN RETURN OF AN HONEST REVIEW

I've read a few books by Annabelle Jacobs before, but this one is definitely my favourite of hers. Chasing Shadows features great characters which are so human, with chemistry that is off the charts and a beautiful setting in the Cornish country.

This story describes what is probably the worst nightmare for any family: that someone goes missing. And Annabelle Jacobs handles this topic with such care and knowledge that left me impressed. I can't imagine what it would feel like if my brother or sister went missing, but every reaction Jamie had to the disappearance of his brother felt real and was so understandable. Ms. Jacobs had me choked up and in tears a few times.

The pain, grieving and denial was realistic and I had to remind myself, that this was "just a story".

Right from the first time Felix and Jamie meet there's tension there and it's just beautiful to see this tension grow into something more when these two get to know each other.

The first time they meet it's a "who the fuck is this guy-tension" which then evolves into an "attraction kind of tension". Again I thought it totally relatable the way both of them react and I liked that, while definitely enjoying the looks of each other, they didn't immediately get along. When someone goes missing it's a stressful time for everyone, and that tempers run high is a given, this situation just reflected that. Also the way they met didn't exactly inspire trust in Felix. And Jamie trusting Felix the minute they met would have felt out of character.

I have to mention the setting separately in this review because the way Annabelle Jacobs describes the Cornish landscape.. I WANT TO GO THERE! She's really brought the characters and the surroundings to life with this story.

"The sea shimmered in the distance as the sun set on it, looking wild and glorious as it crashed onto the rocks and sent spray into the air. Cornish beauty at its rugged best."

I can almost smell the salty air and hear the seagulls cry. <3

With all the talk about the characters and setting I have to point out the suspense of the story. Ms. Jacobs had me on the edge of my seat the whole time, worrying about what happened to Michael. I hoped that he was still alive, of course. But there was no way to be sure. The moment I thought "okay maybe he is alive", something would happen and throw me off again and I didn't know if he had died or was still alive until Michael's fate was revealed at the end of the story.

Chasing Shadows has the whole perfect package with everything I love. It's a fantastic, sexy, thoroughly captivating and realistic story that teaches you to not take family for granted but to cherish the time you have together. I highly recommend this! Seriously, don't wait to buy this one!

The Altered series and A Casual Thing were fantastic already, but this one was even better and I'm looking forward to whatever comes next by this author.

Ele says

****3.75 stars****

This was my favorite book from this author. The mystery isn't much of a mystery, but it kept me interested. The villain was pretty well-sketchd. He creeped me out a couple of times.

The mystery doesn't overshadow the romance. On the contrary, there is a LOT of sexual tension and flirting,

and the steam is just right.

I loved the secondary characters, although it seems unlikely to get their own story. Nice epilogue too.

Recommended!

***J* Too Many Books Too Little Time says**

3.75 Stars!

I really enjoyed the couple of Annabelle Jacobs books I've read, so I was excited to see this one....and that it was romantic suspense.

I use that term a bit loosely. The suspense part of this one was pretty weak, but entertaining nonetheless.

Jamie and Felix had a bit of a hate thing going at the beginning, which was fun. There was some good banter, several laughs.

This was a pretty quick read, but the pacing was good. The first half focused more on the suspense and the second half was more about the romance.

Low on the angst, with some nice steam....this was an easy Sunday read!

~☆~Doni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

~4.25~

***Chasing Shadows*—a perfect blend of romance, steam, and suspense—is my favorite Annabelle Jacobs book to date.**

Jamie and Felix meet under less than ideal circumstances when Jamie, who's grieving the recent disappearance of his brother Michael, finds Felix snooping through Michael's belongings at the cottage Michael rented for a two-week stay.

Jamie can't help but think that Felix knows more about Michael going missing than he lets on, but he's drawn to Felix for far more dangerous reasons, like his tats and the perfect cut of his abs.

The villain is immediately obvious, but the focus isn't so much on Who Done It? as on How? and Why? While both Felix and Jamie attempt to find answers, neither goes off completely half-cocked playing Scooby-Doo. Well, maybe Jamie is a bit foolish at the end, but I understood his impatience.

Honorable mention goes to Felix's Army buddies who happen to be hot as fuck. Unfortunately, one of them's married, but there's still hope for Adam.

This is an intense, sexy story with a perfectly paced plot and an even better HEA.

CrabbyPatty says

3.5 stars. Freelance media relations / journalist Jamie arrives in Cornwall to search for his missing / presumed dead brother Michael, but finds a mystery instead, coupled with an enigma named Felix Bergstrom. Felix is convinced that his ex-Army buddy Karl Weston is responsible for the murder of their mutual friend Jason, and believes Weston is also responsible for Michael's disappearance. Jamie's investigation of his brother's disappearance keeps bringing him back to Felix and the two begrudgingly start sharing information. While Jamie and Felix may question each other's motives, they cannot deny the sexual tension that sizzles between them from their first meeting.

The sexual chemistry between Felix and Jamie is hot with several *smokin'* scenes (starting at about 55%), and their relationship is probably my favorite part of "Chasing Shadows." However, without giving away too much, the murder / mystery plot felt a bit thin, and not enough to sustain the story. For example, the plot centers firmly around Karl Weston who may or may not have had something to do with Michael's disappearance, but yet at the end of the book, there's a "Wait, what? Never mind" moment about Karl, and when we learn what happened to Michael, the answer seems very brief and hurried. Also the middle of the book seemed to drag a bit when Felix's friends (and former army buddies) Adam and Nick appear and basically rehash the mystery without drawing any conclusions.

The strength of the book is Felix and Jamie's relationship, but I felt the plot needed a few more tangents to keep interest throughout the book. If you read this book mainly for the mystery component, you may be disappointed. This is my first Annabelle Jacob's book, and I do look forward to reading more of her work.

I received a galley copy from the author, via Gay Book Reviews, in exchange for an honest review. Review also posted at GayBook Reviews. Check it out!

Joyfully Jay says

A Joyfully Jay review.

4.5 stars

This is a fast paced mystery/suspense that had me on the edge of my seat right up until the end. Just when I thought I knew what was going to happen, the rug was pulled out from underneath me and I never expected this to end the way that it did.

Ordinarily, I wouldn't typically fall for the romance brewing between these guys in light of one of them recently learning that his brother was presumed dead – except, in this case, Jamie is convinced that his brother is alive and well. Though the sparks are flying when Jamie and Felix are together, Jamie is

determined to keep him at arm's length...except his mind says one thing while his body says something totally different.

Felix has been keeping a close eye on Karl since the death of his best friend under suspicious circumstances. With the help of a couple of ex-pats/friends, and the convenience of having his clifftop mansion in close proximity to his aunt's cottages he's been caretaking for, Felix is hoping to get closure on his friend's death. When the second mysterious death/disappearance happens, Felix isn't expecting the subject's brother to distract him from his mission.

Read Wendy's review in its entirety [here](#).

Mark says

Cornwall and the military; two things I know all too well through personal experience. Yes, I know you've heard it before, but what can a born & bred Cornishman and ex-military guy do when he reads a synopsis like this one? Yes, I was all over this book like wasps around jam at a summer picnic. There's nothing better than to read something that you can relate to through personal experience. This obviously means the stakes are high and the pressure is on for the author *mwuahaha* but also for me as a reader, the disappointment can be big too.

So, putting Annabelle Jacobs out of her misery.....I'm delighted to say..... I loved it! You can breathe out now, Annabelle! A great story that is as intriguing as it is hot. First Annabelle got the setting perfectly described. Lonely cottages on the windswept cliffs of Cornwall. Holiday makers who throw caution to the wind, disregard the warning signs and advice from the coast guard and then it's no wonder people go missing and believe me they all too often do, tragically. What happens? The lucky ones get rescued. Others are reported missing first of all and then invariably found dead, washed up on a beach six miles down the coast. Yes, as beautiful as the Cornish coast is, it's also as dangerous. At least families who have lost loved ones can get closure if the bodies are found, but what about the ones who are not? A living nightmare. Missing presumed dead the verdict.

It is in this nightmare hell that Jamie travels to Cornwall to pack up his brother's belongings and then go back home to Nottingham. His and his parent's lives will never be the same again. Jamie's brother Michael is missing presumed dead. He is still mourning, trying to accept the situation but again closure is difficult when there's no conclusive evidence that someone is dead. There maybe that one spark of hope that he is alive and not dead. What he doesn't reckon bumping into is a hot, fit, ex-army guy called Felix. As soon as these two got together I loved the pairing. At first due to the way they met, very suspicious of each other even though a certain sexual tension is there from the onset. But Felix is mysterious and is obviously hiding more secrets than he is willing to tell Jamie. Jamie's suspicions are also raised, could Felix know more about his brother's death? How he died? Where the body can be found? Or dare he even think there's a small chance of him being alive? Well, although Felix is obviously hiding a few things who can't start to fall for the man of mystery type, throw in hot and sexy as hell and you have a character to droll over.

I loved how first of all they did the usual merry dance of denying that they are attracted to each other but this soon goes out the window when Felix's still serving Army friends, Nick and Adam, come to visit. Now this I loved! After being in the military I was interested very much in how Annabelle was going to portray the connections between these characters. And?.....Yes, superbly done! Just as I would have imagined it. First of these guys are larger than life and have the mouths to go with it. As soon as they arrive the constant

teasing and mickey taking starts. I loved it!! But that's the thing behind all this teasing and making fun of each other, there is a deep rooted respect and camaraderie hidden there, almost a kind of love if you will, buried beneath all those layers of jabs and jokes. Something you do not find outside of the military. Believe me, when you have to depend on each other for your life this develops a bond that goes beyond any casual friendship. Annabelle got this spot on and when these guys were serious for five minutes then the truth started to come out about the neighbour living in a luxury house up on the cliff too. He is also ex-army but was never liked and who Felix most definitely has an axe to grind with. This of course piques Jamie's interest into exactly how much Felix knows about this person and could he have any connection with Michael's disappearance. However, the main thing about Nick and Adam being there is them pointing out the obvious about the "heat" in the room between Felix and Jaime until they also can no longer behave themselves. They give Jamie and Felix a not so subtle nudge in the right direction. And then there stars and fireworks in bed all the way.

Once Felix and Jaime get it on, oh my, the heat between these two is definitely sizzling! Phew! Just imagining Felix, ooohhh, although I think I would love to have got him out of a uniform – lol! However, Felix being ex-army means Jamie doesn't get that pleasure, I'm afraid. Oh well, can't have everything! But just when you think these two are getting on fine, Felix throws a huge spanner in the works, the idiot. I could have slapped him despite how "logical" he may have thought his reasoning was – ggrrrr! So a nice bit of angst thrown in there from Annabelle thank you very much – lol!, But she pulls it around nicely and due to a set of hair raising circumstances Felix starts to rethink his decision, thank goodness!

This is a thoroughly entertaining read with some great characters and a super heat level. I felt the mystery part could have been fleshed out a little more to make it more exciting. It was like I could feel there was a lot more potential there to turn the mystery of Michael's disappearance into a little more, making the crime / mystery story even more intriguing and exciting. However, after all is said and done, that's just me. The book kept me intrigued all the way though. As for the truth behind Michael's disappearance? Well, you'll have to read the book – HA!..... ENJOY!

Tamika♥RBF MOOD♥ says

I really enjoyed this story a lot. I love a good mystery thriller, this was more on the romance side of the line but still equally good. Jamie & Felix were good together. I wish it was longer. I loved the buildup between the main characters. Annabelle Jacobs did a really good job with intertwining the mystery aspect for the main characters. Jamie goes to the last place that his brother was seen alive. I liked reading from Jamie's point of view, and I enjoyed his tenacity about who his brother is. In this time of his life, he's not even dealing with the possibility that his brother committed suicide by walking into the ocean. He is adamant that Michael would never do such a thing. Felix kind of drops into his life by making the man who lives in the house on the cliff the guilty party in this situation. Jamie not knowing that Felix has his own dark demons and reasons for accusing Weston.

I think it was really good pacing of the story, and I liked how the romance happened. It wasn't as cliché as being super emotional about who they lost. It was almost them fighting each other every step of the way, and why not blow off some steam to be together. Neither trusts each other at this point, but trust doesn't have anything to do with sex. They were hot together and gawd I almost forgot about the mystery when they were together. Them finding peace and happiness surrounding the mystery was good. I liked that we got an

epilogue, but I really wanted to see them build on them together. They came together in a time of misery, and they are happy. I just wanted to see Jamie & Felix with no distractions. With that being said, I still enjoyed this alot. Good pacing, and really nice writing from Ms. Jacobs. I'm starting to like her writing more and more. Can't wait for more of her work.

Review @

Cat says

Jamie's brother has gone missing and is presumed dead, but Jamie refuses to buy into the police's theory of what happened, and with excellent reasoning. He's gone down to a Cornwall cottage his brother was renting to pack up his brother's things and see what he might be able to find out.

Felix is former Army, and is watching out for his relatives' properties while they are on vacation, which puts him squarely in the middle of the missing man's situation, since he had been staying at one of said properties. Suspicious by training but also due to previous acquaintance, Felix has more reason than most to not trust the wealthy cottage neighbor. Unfortunately, he has nothing concrete on which to act.

When Jamie arrives at the cottage several hours early, Felix is thrown off his stride, and Jamie immediately takes a dislike to the larger man. However, it quickly becomes clear that there's an attraction between the two, and not acting on it is out of the question, even if it's just a temporary fix. However, when secrets are revealed, Jamie must make a decision, and if he chooses unwisely, he may not survive the situation.

The plot of this book got muddy in a hurry - Jamie is technically heading down to pack up his brother's belongings and do some investigative work, but then that actually becomes a minor subplot due to the romance aspect. I was really looking forward to a good suspense story as based on the book description, and this most definitely is not. It turned into an incredibly predictable book in a hurry.

I was disappointed that Jamie essentially spent all this time in bed with Felix rather than searching for the brother he states he is certain is still alive. I was also surprised that with Felix supposedly trusting his instincts, he didn't push his own investigative work further, or even at all, once some peripheral characters were introduced.

Because this takes place over a very short period of time, the pacing is good, and the chemistry between the pair is fairly fierce. There were only a few peripheral characters, but they felt flat and one-dimensional, not really adding value to the story. As for world building, I did get a good feel for what the artist in the brother saw from his cottage vantage points, which helped me engage with the story a little more firmly.

There is very little character development because of the switch from suspense to romance, so each main character appears to be quite superficial, which was a detractant to me. I must say that I did enjoy the ending, and it was left such that the author could come back and build upon it if she so desires. I didn't get an HEA feeling so much as an HFN. I'm rating this at 3.5 stars, which I'm rounding down. It's okay, but definitely not a favorite.

ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review.

Reviewed by Cat from Alpha Book Club

