



## Until We Break

*Jamie Howard*

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## **Until We Break** Jamie Howard

When Sloane Avery stops to help a stranded driver, she finds more than a broken down car on the side of the road. Luke Evans is faster and sexier than her Maserati, but with her heart still on the mend, she's not interested in taking him for a test drive. Despite their initial disdain for each other, emotion and passion simmer, complicating their fragile friendship. But when a tragic loss and devastating betrayal send them spiraling, their growing love isn't enough to save them.

That was five years ago, practically a different lifetime and definitely a different Sloane. Before she's been hardened by booze, sex, and as much distance as she could get from the past. Now, called home on a family emergency, she's determined to hold onto her heart the next time she sees Luke.

Except Sloane's not the only one who's changed. Luke's turned his life around. Only the reappearance of Sloane and the reminder of his biggest mistake can put a dent in his plans. Luke is set on fixing what he's broken. But with her emotions boiling to the surface, Sloane needs to decide if falling in love is life's greatest gift or its cruellest joke.

## **Until We Break Details**

Date : Published November 10th 2015 by St. Martin's Griffin

ISBN :

Author : Jamie Howard

Format : Kindle Edition

Genre : New Adult, Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary

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## From Reader Review Until We Break for online ebook

### AnnMarie says

Fun, smexy, romance, drama, betrayal, misunderstandings, and lots of emotions.

What's not to like?

*Until We Break* is the story of Sloane and Luke. Two people broken in very different ways, but share an instant connection, a connection they both try to fight knowing they aren't right for each other. And because of that, they both do some really hurtful things in the end.

Normally the "misunderstanding" card is one I do not care for. It lends to unnecessary frustration for me. But the author was able to give you the frustration without it reaching the level of aggravation with her solid writing that had the story line flowing.

The story is told in two parts, the *before* and the *after*.

It's been five years since the hurt and betrayal had torn them apart and Sloane returns at the wish of her grandmother. It was basically a lure to *help her* because Sloane turned in to a very different person, distancing herself from her family and friends. She took all her hurt and betrayal and targeted it on anyone she could, in very cruel ways, making them feel just as bad as she does.

This included her sister, who BTW was included in the betrayal, but didn't know because Sloane walked away without saying anything.

Now that Sloane's back, she pretty much sets out to stomp all over everyone, especially Luke who has done an about face with his life, and is in a committed relationship.

Lot's of shenanigans ensue before they get themselves together and everything hashed out, leaving someone else hurt and betrayed.

The story was a merry go round of emotions!

The authors writing was solid. The story line flowed, and the characters though unlikable at parts, kept me engaged.

I would say the only objection I had was the wrap up was a bit to quick, would have liked to have seen things played out a bit more, but overall a very enjoyable story. One I recommend for those who enjoy the roller coaster!

Really nice debut from the author and one I will be keeping my eye on.

Stop by Books and Fandom for an excerpt.

*ARC received with thanks from publisher.*

## Talltree says

Not for me.

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

Thanks, Judy

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## Dali says

*A messy drama and heart pounding angst. Not my usual cup of tea but and emotional ride non the less.*

Sloan Avery is not interested in having fun or meeting guys, she just wants to escape her cheating ex. Together with her sister they spend the summer with their grandmother where she meets Luke Evans. Reminding Sloan of her ex, her initial reaction towards Luke is scorn and contempt, but in the small town she can't seem to get away from him. Forming a complicated and tenuous friendship, their feelings for each other grow but without good communication, a heartbreaking accident, a shocking betrayal, and a scandalous revelation is just too much for their delicate relationship.

That turning point five years ago, sent both Luke and Sloan separate paths. He put his life on the straight and narrow track and on the road to being a successful businessman. Estranged from everyone she used to hold dear, Sloan has been globetrotting, having fun and building walls around her once sweet and tender heart. But a call from her grandmother has her back to the last place she ever wants to be.

Back with a vengeance, no one is safe from her razor sharp tongue and take no prisoners attitude. She'll try to protect herself and her heart without remorse, but will she be successful at keeping her emotions locked down or will she let love in?

This book has been very difficult for me to rate. You see, while I'm not squeamish, I don't have many triggers, I enjoy a well written book, I appreciate emotional turmoil and love a good ugly cry now and then. But mostly I like hearts, flowers and rainbows. I like lots of swoonage and sexy fun times. This book does not really have a lot of the latter. But the author held my attention captive and made me feel.

The falling in love between Luke and Sloan was not easy and far from sweet. It was a rocky uphill battle with both fighting it tooth and nail for one reason or another. There were so many obstacles in their way from low self-esteem, an unhealthy way of dealing with life's problems, to a girlfriend in the second half which only complicated my feelings further.

I had to put the book down to try to get a hold of my emotions. But after that I couldn't put it down. It was like watching two speeding trains in a head on collision course you knew would end up in a nuclear size wreck but is impossible to look away.

I sympathized for Luke. I felt terrible for his troubled family life and my heart bled for his tragic loss. But I just couldn't bring myself to like him. He was selfishly oblivious and that grated throughout the story. On the other hand I really like Sloan. I liked her sweet disposition from the past and got a kick out her brutally honest tongue lashings and harsh persona during the second half.

Luke and Sloan's relationship was fragile at best, hurtful while at their worst. I was frustrated with their lack of communication, there were so many misunderstandings and assumptions were made but they felt real.

After careful deliberation I'm giving this book three stars. Not because I didn't like some of the characters or because I didn't get my cotton candy sweet romance. But because I felt there were a few plot holes like Luke overhearing and misinterpreting a conversation which he never got clarification for. Sloan's sister being in on the big family secret but not Sloan. Characters like Archer, Luke's best friend in the first half kind of disappears in the second part only conveniently appearing a couple of times. Everything that happened to Sloan's sister and Luke during those five years kind of got glossed over and ok yes a little bit because there was very little romance. But I'd like to add that if I can, I'm reading this author's next book because in the end the story is well written and took me on an emotional rollercoaster I'll no soon forget.

Until We Break is a standalone, contemporary romance. Told from both points of view with a happy ending. (view spoiler)

Rating: 3.5 breaking stars

\* I was given an ARC of this book courtesy of the author via NetGalley. The excerpts are from that copy. \*

More reviews \* Stalk us on FaceBook \* As well as Twitter \* Pinterest Board for Book Teasers

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## Kassiah says

### 4 stars.

This review also appears on Pretty Sassy Cool.

I don't even know where to begin with this book. So I guess I'll start at the beginning.

Heartbroken over a terrible breakup with her high school sweetheart, eighteen-year-old rich princess Sloane is spending the summer with her grandmother when she meets nineteen-year-old Luke, a gorgeous guy from the wrong side of the tracks and total manwhore. Sparks immediately fly between them, but they're not sure if it's mutual lust or hatred. A series of epic miscommunications has them each believing they can't stand each other. The stars seem to align for them for a brief moment, but after a few overheard (and misunderstood) conversations, one of them does something unthinkable.

Fast forward five years and Sloane gets a desperate call to come back to her grandmother's. She does so, very reluctantly, to face the very people who wronged her when she ran. She can barely handle the feelings she has, so she covers them up by becoming the (man)whore she despised all those years ago. With fate (and Gran) intervening, can Luke and Sloane deny their feelings again?

This story, ya'll. It all pretty much centered around horrible miscommunication. I accept that for the first half of the story, when they're eighteen and nineteen years old, because what teenagers sit down and discuss their feelings with the boy or girl who seems to not dig them? None. But the fact that it *so* dramatically alters their lives makes me think that one of them would talk to *someone* about it! Nope.

The thing Luke does is unforgivable. While I love dual first-person POV (and thank god we had that in this book or I would have definitely flounced), I don't understand his motivations even while he's explaining

them in his head! Also, (view spoiler)

The entire second half is just unbelievable. I don't believe that Sloane would subject herself to those people at all. And don't even get me started on Haley. Ugh to the second power. I am pretty upset that the companion book is going to be about her. I wish it were focused on Archer. I loved that guy!

Luke's character had such dimension, even though I hated him during much of the book. When he was young, he truly felt like he was being objectified, even though that's all he would allow people to see. Sloane made him feel...not worthless. In the after part, he was a better person. He took a terrible tragedy (or a couple of them, really) to turn his life around.

So why the four stars? When it all boils down to it, *Until We Break* made me laugh, cry, and swoon. And I guess I couldn't ask for more than that. Except for Luke to not have done what he did. The feelings were real and though I might not have been rooting for them in the end, I'm glad things turned out the way they did, and I'm proud of Luke for (finally) being a stand-up guy. Debut author Jamie Howard is *without a doubt* a force to be reckoned with. If you want to read a New Adult story with all the feels, I recommend this story. Just don't say I didn't warn you that you might want to throw your kindle across the room a couple of times.

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### **Melissa Simmons says**

Holy wow did this book kick me right in the feels. LOVED it. Full review coming on November 17th on the blog for the blog tour. :) Thank you to St. Martin's Press for the free ebook copy (via NetGalley) in exchange for my honest review.

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### **Ara Grigorian says**

\*\*I received an advance reader copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review\*\*

Oh this book.... It took me on a roller coaster ride where I wanted to hug the main characters and shake them and hang out with them and kick them too. I wanted to jump into the pages and give them advice, show them the way. I suspect readers will have strong reactions. And that's the sign of a skilled writer.

This is a debut? I gotta tell you, Ms. Howard, made me care so much for these characters that I felt vested in how things turned out.

It takes serious writing chops to put the reader on a journey of highs and lows in a way that is relatable and authentic and personal.

In the end, I can say without reservation that I loved this story. The story broke my heart, gave me hope, pissed me off, made my laugh, and in the final analysis, it made grateful that I read it.

If you're looking for a book that has sizzle (plenty of it!) and heart (a lot of it), then you've found the right one.

I highly recommend UNTIL WE BREAK by Jamie Howard.

## Roxanne says

Thank you to St. Martin's Press via Netgalley for the free review copy in exchange for my honest opinion!

When I picked this book up, I was expecting a typical New Adult read, one with mediocre writing, a bad boy hero, a good girl heroine, some instalust/love, and a lot of sex. And sometimes, to be honest, that's all I'm looking for. I am very much a mood reader. Still, the "typical" New Adult read, for me, anyway, is fun while it lasts but forgettable once it's over. They don't often leave a lasting impression.

There are exceptions to this rule, and I'm happy to say that "Until We Break" was one of them. The way this book led me to believe it was going one way, and then ended up turning in a completely different direction, kept me fascinated! I really was not expecting to be surprised! And I was, so that is great!

Let's see, where do I start? Oh how about Luke? Yes, Luke and I did not get off to a great start. To put it mildly, I hated him! He absolutely revolted me, and I did not think there was any way he could be redeemed in my eyes. But, I guess I have more forgiveness in me than I thought, because once I found out why he was such an ass, he started to worm his way into my heart. As for Sloane, she was even more surprising than Luke!!! All innocent and as Mary Sue as they come, she did a complete 180 degree turn part way through the book and my reading experience was forever changed. So yes, if you are like me and enjoy the occasional surprise, you will love what happens here!

There's quite a bit of angst and drama when Luke and Sloane are reunited after five years apart, and although I didn't love every aspect of how it all went down, I was still rooting for these two to get their happily-ever-after. I'm so happy I gave this new author a chance, and I'm looking forward to diving into any new books by Jamie Howard I can get my hands on!

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## Mandie Foxylutely says

*\*ARC provided by the publishers, St Martin's Press, via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review*

This is the debut book by **Jamie Howard** and an absolute stunner of a second chance romance that takes you on an emotive ride that leaves you gasping by the end.

It is a book of two halves, the first half being how Sloane and Luke came to be and the latter half being five years later. It was one of those reads that throws the unexpected at you.

Sloane Avery is hanging out with her sister for the summer at their grandmother's home. At the various parties and hang outs she keeps bumping into Luke Evans. To say he is a bit of a douche and a man whose is putting it mildly. Yes this sexy young man likes to put it about. However they finally reach an agreement that friendship is the road for them but then feelings get a little distorted and lines blurred. When a devastating incident happens, it leads to heart breaking actions being taken that severs the promise of Sloane and Luke moving on any further together.

Five years later Sloane is back in town but she has changed, oh yes she is totally different to the happy go lucky girl she used to be. But Luke has changed too and for the better. It is like they both swapped personalities over the five years they were apart. But can they ever be back to who they were back then and

can the promise of the love story they could have been get back on track?

This was an absolute divine angst driven read that had me hooked from the start. It had me laughing, crying and so angry I nearly threw my kindle against the wall. Yes it is one of those kinds of reads. Amazing!

The passion and chemistry between Sloane and Luke was easy to feel in the intensity expressed between the lines. The secondary characters were essential to the plotline but some I just wanted to push aside (well just the one) and shout 'back off' even though she was a lovely sweet thing. But that's because I was rooting for Sloane and Luke to sort their past and insecurities out and give me what I was wanting – that elusive HEA we all strive for in our romance reads.

The complexities and depth of the characterisations were cleverly interwoven with a fast paced storyline that flowed beautifully. An absolute MUST read that I highly recommend. Five Stars.

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### **Kelly says**

This is a brave book by a brave author. Luke and Sloane's journey is not an easy one and defies what you'd find in a typical NA romance. The emotion is real. The struggles are heartbreaking. It unfolds on the page amidst Howard's mastery of voice. Her male POV is a thing of beauty. This is a book worth reading.

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### **Jessica (Angie & Jessica's Dreamy Reads) says**

This story was a mess.

I honestly enjoyed the first 40% of the book, the build was engaging, I was into it. But the drama around the halfway mark took the story in an over the top direction that only got crazier and crazier as the rest of the story evolved. The second part of the book.... the AFTER... was a cluster. There was zero chemistry between the main characters. In fact, the main characters weren't even the same main characters anymore. It was like reading a completely different book about completely different people by a completely different author, honestly. It lacked fluidity, it lacked believability, it lacked an engaging plot, it was rife with over the top antics and dialogue more reminiscent of a cheesy soap opera than a contemporary romance. I really liked the voice the author gave to her characters in the first half of the story, I thought the male POV was spot on... but even that went by the way side in the second half of the book. I don't know what happened, but it crashed and burned. And after all of that, the ending felt abrupt and forced. The decent start was not enough to redeem this story from the serious bomb that was the second half.

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### **April Symes says**

Luke and Sloane have this weird relationship. One that I cannot even slap a label on and the first half of the book, Sloane is this sweet, wonderful girl who meets this guy named Luke and their relationship is just this type where it starts off the type where girl meets bad boy , girl has this off the wall fantastic sex. They have this instant spark, this instant bond yet they fight it-- Luke is the type of guy I would warn my best friends, heck even my worst enemy away from—he is whorish in his behavior. Reason I say that is he screws anything that has legs and that walks—Sloane let it be known that she wouldn't put up with that if he were

going to date her and she thought that when they were seeing each other, things changed . But then something terrible happened which led to the unforgiveable to happen.....And it led to Sloane leaving in heartbreak...5 years past, years where she is completely different , hardened from her past. \*\*\*I had to sit awhile and let what happened wash over me, crying . I felt so bad for Sloane—Luke isn't any better but he is completely different –They are completely different people which makes me wonder why didn't they just speak to each other instead of letting what happen go down the way It did\*\*\*

Sloane has to go back home and see her grandmother and knowing that she is going home, she deep down knows she may see Luke. The twists and turns that her trip takes is an emotional experience. She does see Luke. Her sister and Luke try to reach her, to change her back to the lovely and sweet woman she was before the “incident” of 5 years past which has turned her into a person who has a “I don't give a &u\*k attitude”. She would do things now that she would never , ever do 5 years past and that was because of the things of what happened before 5 years past and of the betrayal at the hands of the man she loved and of how he did it to her. But now she is home, things are being shown to her that there is more to the story she didn't know and things are rushed thru. I will say that I am glad that Sloane and Luke finally had a chance to rest the ghosts from the past and that I have really never cried as much as I have and its due to this book. It made me an emotional wreck but this two MC were so broken and they ended up taking their pieces and putting them back together –together with each other. I do feel so bad for Haley though—She didn't deserve what happened and the wreckage of her life. When you read this book, you'll understand about her and I do believe her story is next in book 2 of the next book due out and she will get her story.

My rating: 4.0 stars \*\*\*\*

\*\*\*A gifted copy was provided by the publisher via NETGALLEY for my honest review\*\*\*\*

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### **Bette Hansen says**

LOVED this one! It's a wonderful story from a fantastic new author. Really enjoyed the writing style and the characters are deep, real, and raw. Loved how we got Luke and Sloane's down and dirty backstory at the beginning of the book with a bit of a cliffhanger from the past to the present. Five years later when Luke and Sloane are was again reunited they are two entirely different people. In Luke's case this is a good thing, for Sloane - not so much. You can definitely tell there is a lot of unfinished business between them but getting through Sloane's anger and bitterness won't be easy. You know someone is bound to end up hurt but until the very end you really have no idea who.

This is one you want to give a chance. I highly recommend it.

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### **J says**

DNF. Angst and more angst then cheating and revenge and then I didn't really care any more. Very depressing. Gave up completely at about 80%.

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### **Rê says**

ARC via Netgalley

4.0/5 stars for taking me on an emotional ride.

So, here's the deal, if you ask me whether I liked this book or not, the answer will be more no than yes. Then why did I rate it 4 stars? Short answer: Because it made me feel.

Long answer:

See, "feeling" is exactly what I'm looking for when I'm reading. And this author managed to do that -- sad, happy, angry. Mostly angry.

Sure some people will only rate a book 4 or 5 stars if they love the characters, if the story makes them happy and all. But that's not me.

Was this the sexiest book I ever read? No (though that's what I was expecting it to be when I read the blurb). Did it make me laugh? Yes. Did it make me cry? Not really, but I sniffed a few times reading it. Did it make me angry? Yes. And that's where it had me. That's why I read it in one day.

Luke and Sloane are not your conventional MC and LI. Not the cute, sexy couple. They're sexy, but they're so messed up they can't ever be considered cute.

While Sloane starts off as the nice girl (sure she did get on my nerves a couple of times, but nothing compared to the second half of the book), Luke is the troubled boy to extremes. I think he can be an even bigger douchebag than that guy from Beautiful Disaster (I feel like I've been referencing to BD a lot lately. What's up with that?). Anyway... He has sex with anything that moves. And Sloane isn't taking any of that shit. Good for her. Until, you know, she falls for him. Not a spoiler. Everyone knew that's happen.

But Luke's problems are much bigger than they seem. And I enjoyed how the author worked with his family/personal shit to give us a glimpse of why he's that way.

But when I'm finally on the Luke train, he does the unforgivable. Honestly, I had a hard time swallowing that (pun not intended - you'll get it when you read it). It was pretty awful of him. Not even being on his POV helped me fully accept his motives.

That's when shit hit the fan and the story took a spin. That's also when I thought: oh, shit, this is going to be one of those stories that will make me so damn angry, but I won't be able to stop reading. Oh, well, I was right.

I didn't stop, and the book managed to surprise me by introducing a much more interesting and messed up version of Sloane. While LUke was the king of the first half, Sloane dominated the second part of the book. She was right up there with some of the most famous unlikable characters of the book world. Girlfriend didn't take shit from anyone. I didn't want to look, but I kept watching and following her every move.

And most of all, I didn't want Luke and Sloane together, but their interactions turned even sexier. It was crazy. My feelings were all over the place, but there were feelings! A lot of them.

So, I guess what I'm saying is: you don't have to make me like your characters to like your book. I can hate your MC and your LI, and I'll still rate it a four or even five star (heck, *Gone Girl* is one my favorite books of all times). All you have to do is make me feel. And Jamie did that, so you go, girl!!!!

## Jen says

*Read the full review on Bookaholics Not-So-Anonymous.*

Note: This ARC was provided by St. Martin's Press in exchange for an honest review.

Holy book debuts, bookaholics! When I was invited to read and review this debut release, I took one look at the synopsis and went for it, thinking this was going to be a pleasant second chance romance with a bit of angst here and there. But nope! *Until We Break* threw me for a loop, with a heartrendingly painful story between two teenagers who seem to start off on the wrong foot and find an unexpected kind of love during the summer only to have everything turn on its head by one terrible betrayal. The story is told in two parts--the first one from the summer and the second five years later. It was fascinating to read how both lead characters, Sloane Avery and Luke Evans, were when they spend their first summer together in Briscoll Bay and how they've both changed when their paths expectantly cross again after five years apart.

With Sloane and Luke being as young as they were five years ago, they were bound to do thoughtless things and make ill-conceived choices. More often than not, it was easier to walk or run away from a situation rather than confront it and that can lead to even worse decisions being made. They both made assumptions that were going to lead them down very different avenues, so that when they meet again, so much has changed and it's almost as if they've swapped places. There were a number of times that I so wanted to shake these two to make them see the error of their ways, but sometimes you need to learn fall in order to get back up again. There were a few surprises in the story that certainly strengthened my belief that this wasn't your run-of-the-mill second chance romance and with that, I am one satisfied bookaholic.

Now, don't think that this was all angsty and drama-filled. You'll end up sadly mistaken, because there were quite a few moments of lightheartedness, courtesy of the notable supporting characters, especially Blaire Avery, Sloane's younger sister, and Gran Bunny, their grandmother. This book had one of the most memorable main character pairings I've come across in quite a while, and I can't help but give kudos to the author for making Sloane unapologetically real in her pain and anger. She did things in this book that I'm sure many women only dream about doing to those who have hurt and crossed them. I'm thinking this is the first in a still-untitled series since the author's next book, *Until It's Right*, is about another supporting character here. Of course, I could be wrong, but either way, *Until We Break* is a five-plus-star must-read. ♥

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