



Acts of Faith

A.M. Arthur

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Love can be built on a broken past... but not on broken trust.

Cost of Repairs, Book 4

Rey King has settled into his new life with Samuel Briggs, and his catering business has taken off to the point he's brought a business partner on board. Yet something is missing. He's still haunted by the pain of losing his daughter, Faith, in a custody battle six years ago.

Then, one month before Christmas, Faith's grandmother passes away, and Rey gets a shocking offer he never saw coming.

Samuel knew loving Rey wouldn't be easy, but then again he's no walk in the park either. Still, for eighteen months they've thrived as a couple...until a shy seven-year-old girl shakes his belief that he and Rey can overcome anything.

Settling Faith into their chaotic lives would be a welcome challenge, if things weren't complicated by Rey's too-cute, overly attentive new business partner. As misunderstandings, miscommunications, and unresolved tensions escalate, Rey begins to wonder if the best Christmas gift of his life could cost him the man he loves.

Warning: Product contains one overprotective (and slightly jealous) police officer, an angsty chef whose heart is in the right place (even when his actions backfire), and an adorable little girl who turns their lives upside down. Added bonus—hot man-on-man action and the inappropriate use of a washing machine.

Acts of Faith Details

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From Reader Review Acts of Faith for online ebook

Linda ~ chock full of hoot, just a little bit of nanny ~ says

[And how do you not look in the car! (hide spoiler)]

Debra says

The continuation of Sam and Rey's story from Book 1, Cost of Repairs, picks up the story about 18 months into their relationship. I have not read books 2 and 3, which revolve around different couples, and it was not a problem.

Where it appear that the relationship has grown even stronger since the events of the first book, Sam and Rey fall back into old behaviors when several big changes occur at once. The book is well written and the characters remain true to themselves. While I don't always enjoy storylines that revolve around miscommunications and failure to talk, based on the history of the characters and the huge and quick nature of the changes in their lives, it is a natural and almost expected coping mechanism.

My concern when I finished the first story is that much was left unaddressed. This felt like a good wrap up for these characters, and it appears that the series will continue with Rey's new business partner David, as his story was left unfinished.

Gigi says

Faith!!

Tracy~Bayou Book Junkie says

This is the continuation of Sam and Rey's story. Rey's ex mother-in-law passes away suddenly. Rey is shocked when his ex-father-in-law shows up on his doorstep wanting to offer his custody of his 7yr old daughter back to him. Rey is just trying to find a business partner to expand his catering business. He finds David. A hot unattached gay man. What will having his daughter Faith come to live with Sam and him, and Sam's jealousy of David do to their relationship? Can they survive this?

I loved this series. This was a great sequel to the 1st book in this series. It's nice to know all the supporting characters as well. I liked the relationship that both Sam and Rey built with Faith.

I am hoping this is not the end to this series. We need a book for David, and I would LOVE a continuation of Gavin and Jace's story. They are so young, and by far their story was my favorite in the series!

Dianne says

A exceptionally emotionally powerful real, raw and very satisfying sequel for Rey, Sam and Faith. So worth waiting for. I love this whole series, but Sam & Rey are my favorite couple. I'm guessing David's story may be coming up - that would be most welcome, as would more from Sam & Rey!

Kade Boehme says

This author, THIS SERIES, this effing sequel, man. I can't. AM Arthur can do no wrong in my eyes. Intrigued to see if we'll be getting David's story, but this... this was the perfect way to round out Sam and Rey's story. Just perfect. GAHHHH when it was tense, my feels couldn't handle it, man. /gushing

Vanessa North says

Sam and Rey are such a great couple, I loved revisiting them and seeing their lives adapt to having Rey's daughter move in with them.

I would have liked to see a little more closure to the David storyline, but I also hope we'll be seeing him get his own book.

Salsera1974 says

4.5 stars. "Acts of Faith" -- the fourth novel in A.M. Arthur's "Cost of Repairs" series -- brings us back to the original couple, Sam and Rey, and boy is it a fabulous read.

A year and a half after settling into a life together, Sam and Rey are happy and comfortable: Sam is still doing solid work as a patrolman, Rey is about to start a catering business with a new partner, they are living in a home they love, and they are even more devoted to each other than they originally were. All of this happiness, though, undergoes a very severe set of tests in this book: Rey miraculously regains custody of his daughter, Faith, who was taken away from him when he was wrongly deemed an unfit parent, and Sam has difficulty reining in his jealousy when Rey's new partner not only takes him away from home and into the catering world, but also happens to be a hot, funny, charming gay man. The stress of new parenting is intense, especially when the non-biological parent isn't sure what role he is allowed to play in the family, and the confluence of professional and personal jealousies is incredibly hard to overcome. Watching Sam and Rey confront their problems is a real pleasure.

The way that Arthur explores these difficulties is characteristic of so much of her work. She doesn't sugarcoat the fact that relationships take a lot of effort, and as wonderful as the best ones are, there are times when even they suck. In "Acts of Faith," she allows Sam and Rey to miscommunicate; we see scenarios that are defined by the near-inevitability of certain stupid (but all-too-human) mistakes; she allows us to see them fight, sometimes fairly and sometimes almost viciously; and she shows us how maturity and a willingness to be gentle with one another can smooth over the rough spots, if the couple loves each other enough to look past the failures and carry out repairs. There is such a core of honesty in her stories: we see a reflection of the ways in which people who are flawed, but decent, figure out how to walk through life with the ones to whom they are committed, and who they deeply love. If you want realism in your stories, Arthur doesn't always hit the mark from a narrative perspective, but she usually nails it from an emotional one. In this book, she scored on both counts.

~Mindy Lynn~ says

4 Stars!

I was pleased to see that we got another Rey and Sam book because their story felt unfinished without Faith.

Rey and Sam really get put through it in this book but it's by their own doing. A lot of miscommunication and jealousy take front row seat in this tale. So does darling Faith.

Some people really didn't like David and I don't know why. I didn't really think he brought the issues Rey and Sam were having to the table. The issues they had were all developed by them being stubborn. David was quite the mystery in this one. He kept a lot close to his chest so you really didn't know what was going on with him. So I am glad that he gets his own book.

Sam and Rey are a stronger couple in this book. They feel like they know who they are in their relationship and have grown. But soon it all starts falling apart when a couple big changes happen. One of those changes is Rey's business. He gains a business partner in David who is tall, blonde, and gorgeous. He also happens to be single and loves to mingle. He's a bit of a flirt and quite the charmer which Rey thinks will help on the social part of his business. The problem? Sam. He lets his green show when he feels like David is getting more of Rey's time than he gets. Pretty petty but they don't get much time with Rey's schedule and Sam's schedule not being in sync which leaves them without each other a lot. The second change is Faith. With Faith's grandmother passing away suddenly from a stroke some awful truths come to light when told by John, the grandfather. He's in poor health and wants Rey to have custody of his daughter as he believed he should have always had. I won't say why he never acted on these feelings because it will spoil the story. So now Sam and Rey must make room for Rey's young daughter and figure out how to be parents together and separately. It doesn't work out to well when Rey makes Sam feel like a third wheel no matter how many times Rey says they are both her fathers. I won't say what happens here either because that would once again give too much away.

It was quite the angsty roller-coaster with these two. But eventually they figure their crap out and make amends and work together to fix their short-comings.

I'm glad that it all worked out for this couple and I felt like the author closed out their story with having it feel finished.

Happy reading dolls! xx

****I was given an ARC by the author in exchange for an honest review.****

Pjm12 says

I always knew that at some point, Rey's daughter would join this pair of lovable boys. I also figured it wouldn't be easy having them acclimatise to her, and she to them.

What is so clever about the way it happens here, is that it is all so believable. There's no excessive melodrama or theatrics required to build a narrative. The worry, the extra stress, the pressure is very real and

heartfelt.

Everytime that sliver of ice chips into Sam's heart, I felt for him. Every rash decision Rey makes out of fear and guilt, I wanted to hug him. And little Faith - so precise, so repressed. Who couldn't love her?

This felt the most complete of all the books in this series so far, and yet I know we will see more of Sam & Rey, because now there's David's story to tell. I wonder who his love interest will be? A man from his past, or a new one (who may have snuck into this one)?

I read this without stopping, and loved that it made me cry and laugh and left me a happy mess.

And as a bonus, since Christmas plays a significant and poignant part of the book, I am marking it as xmas story # 16.

DaisyGirl says

3.5 Stars

I love this series. In book four, we pick up again with Sam and Rey. *sigh* I enjoy stories about established couples. Here, Sam and Rey have been through thick and thin and are happily moseying through life when everything is suddenly thrown upside down by a wittle 7-year-old ... oh, and a hotty bussiness partner. I liked experiencing the challenges, triumphs, and setbacks. The emo in me preened at the angst (and there was lots) in this book. Ultimately, however, I felt that Sam got the raw end of the deal. But, hey, there's no such thing in a forever relationship, right? Riiiiiiiiight.

Bottom line: angsty and sweet.

Feliz says

I read all four books in this series: Cost of Repairs, Color of Grace, Weight of Silence and now this latest instalment, Acts of Faith. I must say, while I loved Cost of Repairs to pieces, the next two left me a bit underwhelmed in comparison. But with this book, the old charme was back almost full force for me, together with the two guys who started it all, Sam Briggs and Rey King.

After the whirlwind events that accompanied the beginning of their relationship, Sam and Rey have settled into a routine of sorts. Sam is still a beat cop working late shifts. Rey, still suffering from the consequences of being assaulted, mostly runs his budding catering business from home. However, because he thinks of expanding, he goes looking for a business partner. Enter attractive, flirtatious, gay David Weller, who might be the perfect choice of business partner for Rey but also causes Sam's jealousy to raise its ugly head—he may trust Rey, but the same doesn't necessarily apply to David.

As if that weren't enough, Rey gets an unhoped-for chance at winning custody for his daughter back. And now they have to figure out how to become parents while not losing each other as a loving couple. Sam thinks they'll manage—people do that all the time, after all. In Sam's mind, all it takes is loving each other and protecting your loved ones. While Rey agrees with him in principle, it's awfully hard for him to let go of his deeply ingrained insecurities. Knowing theoretically that all parents make mistakes and facing the reality of being responsible for a child are two very different animals, as Rey and Sam have to learn the hard way,

so hard in fact, that what they hold dearest almost tears them apart.

True to his nature, Rey doesn't ask for help when things start becoming too much for him but shows the world—and Sam—his “Yes, I can”- face instead. Sam, on the other hand, suddenly doesn't know anymore where he stands with Rey. Aren't they partners? And still, Rey doesn't seem to trust him with the child. Also true to his nature, Sam shuts himself away. Not the biggest talkers in the first place, both Rey and Sam retreat into their respective shells, almost losing sight of the big picture—until Faith acts to make them see reason.

I tend to dread reading anew about characters I'd come to love earlier in a series—will there be still room for them to grow, and will they remain true to themselves? I found those fears allayed with Acts of Faith. Sam and Rey started exactly where I'd left them, and even though I would've liked to bang their heads together a time or two while reading, they came out a stronger couple in the end—despite and at the same time thanks to the little girl that fell into their laps, Faith.

The writing was smooth and competent as usual with this series, taking an unobtrusive backseat to the story and letting the characters shine on their own. While other familiar faces showed up in this book, the story focused mainly on Sam, Rey, and Faith, with only David as a more elaborated supportive character (I suppose he'll have his own book soon, and I think I've already glimpsed his love interest, too... :smile:) I found this pleasant, since this way nothing distracted from the major alteration Rey and Sam had to go through.

All in all, this book absorbed me almost as much as the first one did. As series go, this book comes a close second to the first instalment, and I'm hoping for more books in this compelling series.

Warmly recommended.

Review originally written for reviewsbyjessewave.com

Alisa says

This is the fourth book in the series but is actually a follow up to the couple in book one. Rey and Samuel have been together for over a year now and are doing well as a couple. Samuel continues to work as a police officer and Rey has started a catering company which is becoming successful. Right before Christmas they get a shocking call that Rey's ex-mother-in-law has died and his daughter needs to come live with him. Both men are over-joyed but the reality of becoming fathers over night is a little harder than they imagined.

I really enjoyed this book and found it to be a good continuation of Rey and Samuel's story. I felt the author did a good job showing the trials of trying to work, be parents and still maintain a relationship. Things did not always go smoothly for the two men as they tried to blend their family. They struggled with numerous issues and often took their frustrations out on each other. It read as very realistic to me though and I could see it all happening that way in real life. Fortunately the guys work through it and get to their happily ever after. I loved the ending. It was exactly what I wanted for these two. While you do not need to read books two and three in the series to read this story, this isn't a stand alone. You do need to read the first book, Cost of Repairs, before reading this.

Deeze says

Wow this one pulled me in a few directions I wasn't expecting.

At first I was all on Reys side when Sam started being an ass then suddenly Rey starts acting like a brat. Seriously the way he treated Sam after the fights was so wrong.

Faith was sweet, and had me choking up a few times, her pop pop even had me feeling a little sorry for him.

Overall this was an engaging read, plenty of drama, a few tears and a sweet romantic ending.

Plainbrownwrapper says

This one didn't do anything for me. I found it saccharine, predictable, and tiresome. Not badly written, for the most part, just not anything at all special.

Some of the dialogue did make me cringe a bit. For instance:

“I guess I’ve been selfishly thinking about nothing except us. I’m so sorry for that.”

“I know, and I forgive you. I don’t want to keep fighting about these same things.”

“Neither do I. I promise to keep my irrational jealousy under control. I trust you, and I want you to succeed in business, and in being the best father in the world to Faith.”

Really?? Does that really sound like anything any real people would say outside of a therapist's office?

Anyway -- I was hoping to like this one, since I did enjoy Cost of Repairs. And if you're dying to read about two dads learning to live with a young daughter, you might like it. It just wasn't for me!

2.5 stars, rounding up to 3.
