



Perfect

Felice Stevens

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Despite multiple degrees and business success, in his heart Jeremy Strauss feels he's never measured up. While he hasn't lacked for men or women to share his bed, Jeremy has yet to find someone who sees beyond his muscles and perfect smile. Taking it slow with a lover isn't how he operates, but something about the shy accountant he rescues in a snowstorm makes him want this time to be different. So what if Blake drops little comments here and there about Jeremy's pretty face? Their relationship is perfect.

Or is it?

Lonely most of his life, Blake Myers is as careful with his heart as he is with a balance sheet. The last thing he expects is for a man like Jeremy to fall for him, and he can't help but wait for the bubble to burst on their relationship. When the stress of a professional crisis turns personal, Blake sees the perfect relationship he and Jeremy have built start to crumble. Caught in an ever-tightening web of lies, rather than wait for Jeremy to leave him, Blake breaks it off and vanishes.

Perfection is an illusion.

Jeremy doesn't know which way to turn and for the first time in his life, he's lost and uncertain. Believing he's no longer the man Jeremy needs, Blake sinks deeper into despair. Both men struggle with secrets, lies, and hurtful memories until they are forced to look inside their hearts and learn the truth—that love is perfectly imperfect.

Perfect Details

Date : Published February 23rd 2018

ISBN :

Author : Felice Stevens

Format : Kindle Edition 253 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Perfect for online ebook

Denise H. says

***** High drama and abundant angst** in this tale of two insecure men who gain strength from each other. **Strong, muscled Jeremy, 37, has an MBA and booming business** with his Gym, but never seems to measure up with his Mom's approval, and the public's "dumb jock" mentality. **Mild mannered CPA, Blake, 30s, with blue eyes, scruff and glasses,** has been verbally abused by his Dad his whole life, plus his work environment is toxic also. **They each just want to be good enough, to be acknowledged.**

When Jeremy rescues Blake in the snowstorm, their lives change. Blake and Jeremy bond and slowly begin to date, each being leery of a true connection. We do get a lot of angst, and inner thoughts of feelings they've grown up hearing. We get to see how great they can be together. On top of that this is first time relationships for them, so mistakes are inevitable.

It's sad to see Blake revert and withdraw. We do get to see the confrontation of the folks who made their self worth a mess. Getting out that pent up set of emotions is amazing for each man. Hurtful words and actions are absorbed by kids and cling into adulthood.

Rising above, confronting the cause, and moving on is certainly worthwhile, no matter how hard it is to do. Perfection isn't the norm.

Our men are very hot and exciting in their sexy times together, especially with Blake's discovered kink.

It's got a wonderful epilogue, and HEA.
ENJOY !

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Dawn Nicole Costiera says

4.5 Stars!!!

Felice Stevens has crafted another wonderfully heartwarming love story within Perfect. Talk about getting the feels!! I had them throughout. I seem to always fall helpless in love with all her boys....

Jeremy Strauss & Blake Myers could not be more perfect for each other. Opposites on the outside, but the same where it counts within their hearts and souls. The Jock & the Nerd... It doesn't matter what a person looks like insecurities can run deep. Jeremy who seems to have it all has never felt valued enough. His pretty face and occupation as an owner of a fitness center, cause people to underestimate his intelligence. He's a loner and has never been the relationship type... Until he meets an adorably shy accountant named Blake. Blake has his own set of issues. He was always been made to feel inadequate. He has low self esteem, which makes dating a challenge. A chance meeting with handsome Blake changes their lives forever.... Jeremy was intrigued and attracted to Blake from the start. Which only confused Blake. How could someone like Jeremy

want him? Oh my heart!! These boys gave me butterflies immediately. Their specialness radiated off the pages. I loved how they decided to take their relationship slow and get to know each other. I felt all their passion and chemistry. Along with their insecurities and fears. All of which made my heart ache. Blake is so lonely and broken, I just wanted to hug him. While Jeremy is patient, loving and protective. Over time, they started breaking down each other's walls, while navigating their relationship. Their road was bumpy, but so damn beautiful. I loved Perfect. It's another prime example of why Felice Stevens is one of the best.

Lelyana says

***"I don't feel like me anymore. I'm not the same person. I don't know who I am anymore."
"I do," "You're mine. And I love you. I don't know how to unlove you."***

The first time around when I met Jeremy in Noah and Oren's story One Call Away, I'd just knew that I need Jeremy's story to be told. Because Jeremy is going to be perfect and I fell in love with Jeremy back then. And I wasn't wrong.

I always knew that Jeremy had something to tell. About his own struggled with his love affair with Blake.

Once again, Felice Stevens broke my heart, and made me cry and held my breath.

I won't bore you with the story, because you need to read this word by word. This is a beautiful second chance of love between Jeremy and Blake. And Felice never disappoint me. Ever.

This just written so beautifully and it warmed my heart, how perfect Jeremy is for Blake. While Blake is having self conscious and fragile with his own inner demons, Jeremy became his rock and happy place.

Jeremy and Blake, when it comes to sexy times, they won't disappoint you. And Blake, the shy Blake, he has a kink when it comes to Jeremy. Semi public sex, anyone? Who thought that shy Blake has such naughty mind?

***"Anyone across the street could see you if they looked up. Or the people in the building directly across. But you like that. I know you do."
He spit on his thumb and circled Blake's tight hole, hearing him gasp. "You get off on it."
"Please," Blake gasped. "Do it." "Not so fast, baby. I want you begging for it. Want them to hear you scream for my dick all the way across the street."***

But again , is hot sexy kinky sex enough to make their relationship strong?

""Nothing and no one s perfect. There's always a tiny imperfection, a flaw that starts as something invisible to the naked eye but is so profound that one day the beautiful surface shatters to reveal the ugliness at the core""

But is Jeremy's love enough to make him stay and believe he's the one that Jeremy need? Not his job, not his perfection, just him, just Blake the person.
I'm glad that Jeremy is not an easy to give up of his dreams, and he wanted Blake and he must have Blake, no matter what.

"You said I had something of yours?"

"Yeah, my heart. Since you've been gone, I can't find it anywhere. I figure you took it with you"

I'm still recovering from a hangover Jeremy and Blake, I'm on my second read now.

Just let you know, this book is a '**must read**', or you'll missing out the meaning of unconditional love, acceptance and second chance love affair.

One of the most beautiful book I have ever read this year. Blake and Jeremy made me cry, angry, and happy at the same time. And they deserved their HEA.

Jeremy and Blake were easily become my favorite. I'm sure for a very long time.

Well done, Felice!

I loved Jeremy and Blake. I don't know how to unlove them.

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My life is **perfect** now Jeremy and Blake's in my hands!

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## **Michael says**

### **Perfectly Named Book**

Perfect

What an absolutely perfect title for this book, for so many reasons.

It today's society, we spend so much time focusing on appearances that we often miss what lies underneath. The entertainment industry is filled with images of pretty people doing pretty things. So much so that when we find out they have personal lives and personal problems, we're in absolute shock.

To the outside world, Jeremy seems to have it all. He's attractive and owns his own business. But underneath is the sense that he's not a success. He deals with the stereotype of "all brawn and no brains", when in fact he's quite smart. He's always in second best to his brother, Noah. While he adores his brother, his mother has been so attentive and forceful with Noah, Jeremy feels lost in the shuffle.

Blake very much looks the part of the accountant that he is. But underneath is someone who is significantly more "adventurous" than his appearance would imply. Belittled from a young age by a father who didn't

think he was masculine enough, he struggles with his own sense of worth and self confidence.

It isn't until the two come together that they realize we all have flaws. As cliché as it is, it's what's on the inside that matters, not how buff one is or how smart, but how we treat each other.

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## Debra says

### Reviewed for Sinfully.

While this is the fourth story in the Soulmates series it is a standalone, but it does have ties to *One Call Away* (Noah and Oren's story). Jeremy is Noah's brother and the timeline of this story begins before and flows into the events there. Other than that, there is no reason not to jump into this book even if you haven't read the prior stories – although I highly recommend them on their own as well.

When Jeremy and Blake meet on a sidewalk on a snowy night, they seem as different as can be; Jeremy, the outgoing, muscled gym owner and Blake the shy, quiet, plain accountant. Something about Blake instantly attracts Jeremy and he quickly puts the moves on Blake, who is like nobody he has ever been with.

Jeremy doesn't believe in love and dates around. Blake rarely dates and doesn't get emotionally involved with people. He likes his orderly life as it is. Jeremy is tired of being judged as a no-brained gym rat. Blake sees him as a go-getter and smart businessman, even if he does occasionally comment on Jeremy's pretty face or blows off discussing his work. Blake fears he's too boring for the gorgeous, successful Jeremy, who is always commenting on Blake's prestigious job, and figures that it's just a matter of time before Jeremy walks away. What they didn't expect is how quickly they manage to fall into a relationship and how surprisingly well they fit sexually and emotionally - two imperfect men who just might be perfect for each other. With Jeremy, Blake feels safe and is able to be sexually adventurous and give up some control, while Blake brings out the romantic, protective side of Jeremy and makes him feel special, which is something new for him. Another first for both men is believing that love may just be a possibility.

While they both have wonderful siblings they each have big insecurities thanks to their parents. Blake's brought on by his father and Jeremy's by his mother. No matter how good things seem, neither can fully quell their fears and worries. Blake is holding back from completely opening up to Jeremy and Jeremy can't shake the feeling that Blake doesn't see him as an equal, but both men definitely want to hold onto the other as long as it can last.

This is another beautifully written book by Felice Stevens. Jeremy and Blake really bring out the best in each other and I enjoyed watching them navigating the relationship angle of things. Neither has had a serious relationship before and both men struggle with it quite a bit where communication is concerned. Neither is great at it, but Jeremy is more assertive than Blake and does his best to let Blake know what his feelings are. While Blake promises to be open and honest with Jeremy, it's not something that comes easily. They seem to be doing great together until Blake breaks that promise to Jeremy by lying to him when he should be seeking his support and everything spirals out of control. This is where the tension really built, waiting for Blake's house of lies and deception to come crashing down and, if you've read *One Call Away*, you know a little of what to expect when it does. Soon his emotional turmoil is manifesting itself physically as well, causing him to put even more distance between himself and Jeremy until he makes one more bad decision that completely guts both of them and also gutted me as the reader.

I'll admit that Blake frustrated me so much at times. His father did a number on his self-esteem as a child

and he still carries the emotional scars as a successful adult. He is passive and doubts his worth, not trusting Jeremy's declarations of love to last. He puts up walls and shuts Jeremy out and no matter what Jeremy says to him, he is always telling himself a version of 'well you say that now but you'll be gone when you see I'm not worth it'. Jeremy is a sweetheart and just wants someone to put him first and make him feel like he's a priority in their life. The pressure they both feel to be perfect in the other's eyes contributes to a lot of the worries and both men have a hard time putting that aside. Luckily they both have Jeremy's psychologist brother Noah to try and help put things in perspective. I adore how they came full circle, finally realizing there is no such thing as perfection, but there is such a thing as two people being perfect for each other.

This is another winner for Felice Stevens fans or for anyone who likes stories where the road to HEA is a bit bumpy - and the tiniest bit kinky. Both men have to work hard for it but that just makes it all that much sweeter in the end.

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### **Elsa Bravante says**

He leído poco de Felice Stevens, y lo poco que he leído me ha convencido de que no es una autora para mi, siempre he llegado a las mismas conclusiones. La historia no se desarrolla de forma natural, varias escenas son poco creíbles e inducen a una vuelta de ojos continuo, algunos diálogos y pensamientos de los protagonistas son muy infantiles, lo encuentro todo muy superficial...  
Lo dicho, definitivamente no es una autora para mi, no creo que lo vuelva a intentar.

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### **Funzee Shu says**

*"...you're the one I want to be with because when we're not together, something's missing. It doesn't feel right."*

If I can only use one word to describe what I felt about this book, it would be **PERFECT!!**

This book succeed toying with my feeling right from the beginning to the last page.

Jeremy had caught my attention right from the minute he show up at One Call Away book as Noah's caring brother. And at that time I do really wish that he will have his own book because I know he has a lot story to tell. And I have no doubt that his story will be something.

And when the author said that Jeremy will have his own book, can you imagine how excited I am?

As always, Felice never failed me with her writings, there's always a magic touch in every story she wrote. The simplicity and very ordinary characters she wrote always took special place in reader heart and leave deep impression.

I love Jeremy and his patience with Blake's insecurity problems. There's a time when I 'hate' Blake for keeping the truth from Jeremy that caused the friction in their relationship, but at the same time, I really want to hug Blake for his inability to speak the truth due to lack of self confident caused by what his father did to him.

*“You burst into my life like some kind of fantasy. The jock and the nerd. A guy like you liking me? Loving me? After a lifetime of being a nobody, I wanted to believe you were going to stay. That I could be your somebody...”*

*“You’re everything I ever wanted and never thought I could have...”*

In Blake whole life, compliment was a rare thing he have. For years he struggling to be 'accepted' as 'somebody' by his father, friends and later by people at his workplace. So, when a good looking handsome guy like Jeremy said he likes him, it's hard for Blake to believe that it's true...

When they took their relationship into the next step, deep in Blake mind he keep questioning when this happiness will be end? Because nothing is perfect right?

And when everything finally crumbled down, Blake choose to leave and broke Jeremy heart.

The good things here is Jeremy not a type of guy who give up easily. When he can't denied anymore that live without Blake was impossible for him, he then try to win back Blake's heart and bring him home.

Both Jeremy and Blake are not perfect, they both also have their own demons and insecurity problems, but together, these two imperfect persons completed each other in amazing way...

*“You said I had something of yours?”*

*“Yeah. My heart. Since you’ve been gone, I can’t find it anywhere. I figure you took it with you.”*

*\*ARC is kindly provided by the Author in exchange of a fair, unbiased and honest review\**

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**Truuss says**

I love some complex men in a story.  
Blake is a lonely guy until Jeremy walks into his life.

It's a complicated journey... two guys in love but both with huge personal issues. One of them has always been told he would never ever be enough in life, the other hurt and told he'd never be 'the one' for someone else, always playing the second violin. When they collide there is hope, only life isn't working with them.

Their relationship is slow and sweet. Communication isn't their best thing, on the other side they have great sex and can't get enough of each other.

When complications are taking up too much space in their relationship Blake does what he's good at...running away. Jeremy is devastated and can't believe this is happening.

"In my world full of nothings, you are my everything."

This story has a lot of unprocessed feelings and love isn't always enough to heal the wounds. Besides all their struggles, we also behold Jeremy's progress in business with his fitness center. Colleagues and family, bad firms and good business plans are playing a part in their wasting and emotional ride.

Finally the loose ends come together. The battle of Jeremy and Blake felt honest and their commitment real. Sometimes I was afraid they wouldn't end up together.

A fascinating story written in an enthralling way.

Read and reviewed for Diverse Reader

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## **Aki | nose buried in books | ♥? | says**

2.5 stars

Well.. I used to like a lot Ms Stevens' books, she was a 4/5 stars author for me! I don't know if my tastes have changed or if it is this book, but it didn't work for me. At all.

What I liked is the HEA, the sweetness and the love between mcs.

I didn't like anything else. First, literally every single character in this book has "bright blue eyes" ..... Ok, it's a world of blue eyed people, but it isn't necessary to say it every time: whenever a new character was presented, he/she had "bright blue eyes".. just not. (Also I think I remember Noah from "one call away" had green eyes..)

Second: the mcs. They were too childish, and the sweetness it was really too much, it gave me diabetes. And usually I am a totally sappy stuff fan.

The main problem for me is that the whole story was completely unrealistic. The way the mcs meet it's absolutely absurd! "Hey hottie struggling with groceries bag, come to my home for a coffee" "sure" and bam, insta love! Wait... What?! No way a sane person would follow a total stranger in his home! And for sure not in a big city like New York (or so I think, for sure that would never ever happen in my city!)

Then the mcs are childishly in love, then they have a huge breakup.... That is easily forgiven and forgotten, and so are they issues (and for them, go to see a good therapist.. really). Uhm, not realistic at all. I know it's a fiction, but I couldn't be involved in the story.

I recommend this book only if you are a really huge Felice Stevens' fan.

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## **Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says**

3.5 stars

Perfect by Felice Stevens was one of those books I had to read, digest, go back and re-read the pages I bookmarked and then write my review. Please don't misunderstand, Perfect is a very good book with complex characters that had some big time baggage from their younger lives and I loved the contrast between these two men who in reality were more alike than even they realized, but for me it was missing the spark I've come to expect from this author.

Gym owner Jeremy Strauss enjoys life with a bevy of men and women. Fully embracing his bisexuality, Jeremy doesn't feel he is cut out for the long term but on a snowy night he helps Blake Meyers, an accountant, get out from the storm and so begins their romance.

For years Jeremy has been judged on his outward appearance despite having multiple degrees and a successful business Jeremy has always felt "less than" and that stems from his mother putting all of her effort into his younger brother and virtually ignoring him.

Years of verbal bullying from his father has left Blake to believe he isn't worthy of anything including a man like Jeremy who could have anyone he wants. Add in a job that is sucking the life out of him and a supervisor who berates him and Blake's self esteem is lower than ever.

First off I appreciated that Blake didn't want to get down and dirty with Jeremy right away and made him wait even though he figured it would end things. I believe that this made Jeremy realize he was worthy of more than a quick f\*ck and gave him the push to want more from a partner. Both these men had issues and I honestly would have liked to see them take some steps together to discuss them and work towards improving the way they viewed themselves. My biggest complaint about this book is I felt like they never really did anything other than work, hang out at the apartment, eat out once in a while, and have sex. I needed to see them out and about discovering those little things about one another that made them special but it just didn't happen so I wasn't all that surprised when they had problems because I didn't feel they really knew one another all that well. Yes, they enjoyed each other's company and they missed each other when apart, but never once did one of them see something that reminded him of the other or have something happen and think how the other would react. I didn't feel that closeness, that connection that makes a union strong and lasting. That being said, I did enjoy these characters, the supporting characters, and the way these two fell into a relationship, I just needed more to really believe it and love it.

Perfect is in the eye of the beholder and while these were not perfect men they were PERFECT for each other.

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## **Lisa Cullinan says**

### **Another feel good story!**

Both Blake and Jeremy have a really hard time believing that they're each "good enough" pertaining to so many aspects of their life. For two people who spend so much time feeling inadequate and imperfect, they

sure are perfect together.

Jeremy, who owns a gym, is constantly stereotyped as a gym rat instead of a man who not only trains members, and yes, works out himself, but has a Master of Finance degree as well.

Blake, a CPA, works in a prestigious accounting firm and finds his world turned upside down because of his moral and ethical judgement in regard to a huge client's write-offs.

It seems to be a struggle to overcome how the outside world sees them and to prove that they're so much more.

Well-written and heartfelt ~ loved the appearances from Felice's other books, especially Carter! Highly recommend.

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## **Bo says**

Skirting the Edge

This one skirted the edge of comfort for several reasons.

First of all, even though it is a typical Felice Stevens scenario--meant-to-be-lovers held back by paranoia--it took me a while to get to like Jeremy and Blake.

Second, there is a hole in the narrative when it comes to the real reason behind Blake losing his job. To me it reeked of homophobia but it never got explained.

Third, there is more of an emphasis on the sex in the relationship than in her previous books, and it leads to a feeling that Jeremy and Blake are a bit shallow.

It's up to the supporting characters--especially Jeremy's brother Noah from the previous book in the series, the brilliant "One Call Away," plus in a backhanded way their mother, as well as Blake's sister. There is also an on-going potential romance that Jeremy encourages among two of his employees of his gym, and that might mean that there's another book coming.

Still, Ms. Stevens' beautiful use of the language, her inherent understanding of the things that make New York City and its suburbs work, help this one along through some tough spots.

Jeremy was a bit one-dimensional for a while in the beginning of the book, and then Blake because a total idiot in the second half. The reasons are eventually explained and exploited but sometimes you feel like you really want to smack them around.

Until some people talk sense into them and it's ok.

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

I liked Jeremy a lot. But Blake? Yeah, not so much. He was insecure and judgy, and pretty much shit all over Jeremy's best intentions.

Nothing much happened, and the "I'm not good enough for you" monologues got old fast.

Also, Jeremy's confrontation with his mother (more like an intervention really, since Noah, Oren, and Blake were all there) had me rolling my eyes. That poor woman! I mean, Noah already confronted her in book 2, and now Jeremy has mommy grievances too, because mommy didn't pay enough attention to him.

Seriously, parents do the best they can. **If you were fed, clothed, hugged, and allowed to run naked through the sprinklers, you're doing better than many kids.** Stop bitching about your childhood and get on with your life.

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### **Bo says**

4.5 STARS

I really loved this, but the ending seemed rushed. I wanted more resolution about Blake's new job.

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### **Mercedes says**

3.5 stars

Would have been four stars but too much sex for my taste

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