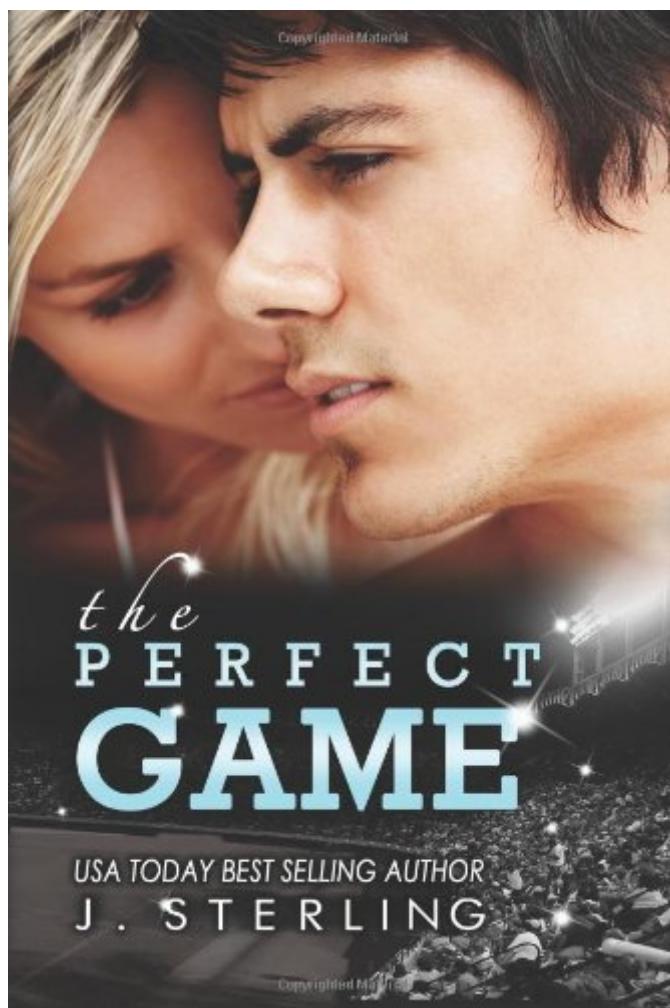


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The Perfect Game: A Novel (The Game Series Book 1)



Synopsis

A USA TODAY BEST SELLING NOVEL & SERIES! He's a game she never intended to play. And she's the game changer he never knew he needed. The Perfect Game tells the story of college juniors, Cassie Andrews and Jack Carter. When Cassie meets rising baseball hopeful Jack, she is determined to steer clear of him and his typical cocky attitude. But Jack has other things on his mind...like getting Cassie to give him the time of day. They are damaged, filled with mistrust and guarded before they find one another (and themselves) in this emotional journey about love and forgiveness. Strap yourselves for a ride that will not only break your heart, but put it back together. Sometimes life gets ugly before it gets beautiful... OTHER BOOKS IN THIS SERIES: The Perfect Game: Book One The Game Changer: Book Two The Sweetest Game: Book Three The Other Game: Book Four OTHER BOOKS BY J. STERLING: Dear Heart, I Hate You 10 Years Later - A Second Chance Romance Heartless Seeing Stars Breaking Stars Losing Stars - Coming Soon Chance Encounters In Dreams

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Customer Reviews

I have wanted to read The Perfect Game for such a long time, it's been sitting on my kindle for

years, but for whatever reason I never found the time to read it until I received a signed copy in the mail. After reading it, I really wonder why on earth I even waited so long to dig into it. One thing that I noticed before I started this book, is that there are two very distinct camps: you either loved the book or you hated it. I never saw a middle ground. As I started reading the reviews, my interest became more piqued to say the least and I really wanted to know why there was such a split between the two groups. As I started reading, I quickly figured out why you either loved it or hated it.*****WARNING! SPOILER ALERT. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT

HAPPENS, TURN BACK NOW!!!!*****The Perfect Game runs along a similar storyline like that of Jamie McGuire's "Beautiful Disaster." The two have their similarities with the innocent heroine and the pushy bad boy player/athlete/fighter who will stop at nothing to get the heroine's attention. That's pretty much where the similarities end. Where I really wasn't crazy about Travis Maddox of BD, I actually found myself being charmed by Jack Carter of TPG. Not saying that one author is better than the other, just that I have my own preferences when it comes to my bad boys. I was really disappointed to see people really angry about these two books being so similar in nature. But that is the really funny thing about books, no story is truly the same. What I really liked the most about this book was Cassie. Oh. My. Cassie. This girl had sass and tenacity when faced with Jack Carter, biggest player at the university. Where other girls tripped and hung all over Carter like he hung the moon and the stars in the sky, Cassie held back her disgust with her head held high and a bit of disdain for the player in her eye. Whatever you do, do not call her, "Kitten" or there will be heck to pay with her, something that Jack can't seem to help himself to calling her any chance he gets. Cassie makes him beg, plead, and whimper for a date after weeks of letting him dangle. I like that she had a backbone and wasn't afraid to let him know she wasn't impressed with him. There are times when I really need the book to get a move on, I find myself skipping and skimming to get through the initial meeting and getting to know the characters and how they interact with one another. With this book, I didn't have to skim because the author decides to skip ahead four weeks, so that we're past the initial awkward stage of dating and into a more comfortable stage where the characters have an established relationship. There were a lot of people who didn't like this fact and felt that it took away from the character development; I didn't feel that way in the least. So, one thing that I took notice in this book is that it follows the fantasy of the good girl being able to tame the bad boy. What girl doesn't want to be the one to tame a wild boy down and make him hers? I may be cynical, but I won't deny that I enjoy that fantasy every once in a while. Anyhow, what most girls don't think about when they're daydreaming about how to tame their own bad boy is why is the bad boy so bad? Most of them have some kind of issue stemming back from something in their homelife.

When Jack was 5 years old, his dad went to work but never came home. He just disappeared and never came back. The author leads us to believe that he simply walked away from his family and never looked back. At 8 years old, Jack's mom tells him that she can't handle him or his little brother, they're just "too bad" and she just walks out of their lives. What child wouldn't have some kind of traumatic issues of abandonment after that? Jack, rather than getting some kind of therapy for what he went through, went through a fighting phase. He never really grew out of that phase. Jack has commitment issues, which is why he never sleeps with the same girl twice. And he never dates. Until he meets Cassie; all bets are off when he first lays on her. The biggest issue people had with this book was the cheating. Jack is in the AA minor leagues, celebrating his very first perfect game, drinking a little too much. A jersey-chaser named Chrystal sets him up with more drinks until Jack has no idea what he's doing, until he takes her home and sleeps with her. He's feeling guilty about what he's done with someone who isn't his girlfriend, but rather than telling her the truth, he decides not to say anything to her; he's broken two of her rules and he knows he'll lose her if he says anything. Normally I don't condone cheating, but I feel like I can relate to this particular situation. I had a boyfriend who cheated on me, someone I thought I would spend the rest of my life with. But he made a bad choice one night and ended up getting this girl pregnant. He was a good guy so he decided that he needed to do the right thing and marry this girl. We all knew this baby wasn't his but he wouldn't listen. Unfortunately for him, he ended his life a year after they were married. Jack made a terrible decision, which was very much impaired by alcohol. Does it make sleeping with someone who wasn't Cassie, okay? No, but I really think that if he hadn't been drinking, he never would have hurt her by cheating. We all know that alcohol truly impairs our judgement, so I found it hard to really hate him like everyone else was doing. He's human and he made a really bad decision and he pays for it by marrying this girl because he got her pregnant. Does he have to do it? No, but he's a good guy and he doesn't want to be a bad parent like his parents were. It's really hard to hate him, because I think if I'd been given the choice, I would have taken my ex back in a heartbeat, because I absolutely loved him with everything that I had in me. Towards the end of the book, Jack discovers that Chrystal was being dishonest and there was never a baby. He is able to annul the marriage, but not without some resistance on her end. He goes six months without speaking to Cassie and everyone is pissed about it in their reviews. The reason I think that he went so long without talking to her is because he wasn't a single man yet, and despite what his wife had done to him, he wasn't a real cheater. If given a choice stone cold sober, he'd never cheat on a woman he was with. I really ended up adoring this couple and I really can't wait to see where the future takes them next.

I do not condone cheating at all so this book was really hard for me to wrap around and review. I mean, Jack even wore a shirt that said "No Glove No Love" but I guess he broke that motto of his....you know....an affair to remember. I still have in my mind how much Jack was a jerk and an idiot to Cassie but then I cannot forget how Cassie acted such a moron to accept things so quickly and want him back even though he refused too. Yes, Jack Carter was freakin hot and there was so much love between the two that the tension was combustible. So I decided to give this book overall 4 Stars. I didn't agree on the storyline and was confused on why Jack was so trusting to Chrystle and should of asked a lot of questions before jumping into marriage and giving up on him Cassie altogether. I mean, Cassie was wanting him back after he broken her heart to shreds but he still chose Chrystle without any kind of proof of paternity test.

FAVORITE QUOTES:

"Jack: I'm going to kiss you.
Cassie: This doesn't change anything
Jack: It changes everything.
Cassie: Prove it."
"Kitten, Letting go of someone who owns your heart is hard. Sometimes holding on to that person is even harder. I know I'm not the easiest person to love, but you are. It's not that I can't live without you; it's that I don't want to. There's a difference. We all make choices in life and I choose you. My heart belongs to you. And I'm not asking for it back, even if you don't want it anymore. I'm just asking for the chance to have yours again. I promise I'll be more careful with it this time. Love Always, Jack" *~ J. Sterling, The Perfect Game*

Re-READ book on 1-1-14 also w/ review attached to

This book made me see RED. Maybe I should review this tomorrow when I have a clear head, but I find that I like emotional reviews the best. Here goes nothing... While reading this I was Cassie. I could feel her emotions so clearly. I loved Jack. I loved their first date... I loved how protective he was... and much to my surprise I even liked his cocky little attitude. With that said, I REALLY loathed Jack further into the story. I don't want to give anything away, but I really wanted to hurt him. I killed him like 10 different gruesome ways in my head. It was so real... And then to top it all off, Jack pissed me off even more because I started to forgive him. I didn't want to forgive him. I didn't want to love him. Now that I am through reading, I feel like I just got out of a really bad unhealthy relationship that was so wrong but so right at the same time. For the record, I hate Jack's stupid perfect game and I hope he never has another one. *I don't mean it.*

THE TRUTH IS. . . I LOVED Jack. I still LOVE Jack. AND I still LOVED Jack when he did what he did. *face palm*

Side note: I loved Dean and Melis...

3.5-4 stars. I was really mad at Jack Carter in The Perfect Game, so it has taken me a while to finally move on to the next book. They talk and get it out in the open, which I appreciated, but I guess there was still something missing in my perspective. Maybe I wanted more groveling and remorse, I don't know. And now that Jack knows what it's like to lose, he does everything in his power to make up for it to Cassie. While Cassie has always held back, even in the previous book, she definitely has a reason to be wary and not trust, but even more than that, she doesn't want to interfere with Jack's career. I do feel like this book gives a good glimpse of what it's like to be with a pro athlete and all the things that go behind the scenes, which is not all glamorous and enviable, despite the outer shine. The real groundwork between Jack and Cassie was bridging the gap towards completely open communication and prioritizing their relationship vs their dream jobs without all of the outside distractions that keep interfering.

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