



Boss

Ashley John

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After years of travelling the world using his trust fund, college-dropout Joshua Silverton returns to London to discover two shocking truths: his estranged and wealthy father has been dead for over a year and he left his fortune to a total stranger. Joshua soon meets the man who stole his inheritance and even though he expects to hate Ezra Steele, he can't ignore the strange attraction he suddenly feels towards him.

Bill Silverton saved Ezra Steele from his troubled past when he signed Silverton Tower over to him on his deathbed. Ezra now has the house, the business, the cars, the money and a different man in his bed every night. It's a life he wants to cling to, so when Bill's gorgeous son unexpectedly turns up and demands he hand everything back, his life is turned upside down in more ways than one.

A need to finally prove himself to his dead father forces Joshua to challenge Ezra but will he be able to ignore the attraction in order to be ruthless? Ezra tries to keep his enemies close by getting Joshua into his bed but as history catches up with him, he is forced to face himself. They are both running from their past, so in a battle between head and heart, Joshua and Ezra must choose what is more important – money or each other.

Boss Details

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From Reader Review Boss for online ebook

Debra says

Full review originally posted at Sinfully...Addicted to All Male Romance

Ezra Steele is just the kind of man most people would hate. As head of Silverton Industries Ezra is rich, arrogant, having sex with a different nameless twink every night and thinking of himself in the third person, but Ezra has a past that most people don't know about and he isn't looking to share that information. Being left a fortune and a business when Bill Silverton died saved Ezra and he will do what he has to in order to keep it.

Joshua Silverton is the kind of man you want to hate for totally different reasons. A rich kid that never had to take responsibility for any of his actions, he has spent the last seven years partying around the world with his best friend Levi. At 18 he left school and cut contact with his family except for keeping his cousin Violet up to date on his travels. Back in London for Violet's wedding, he is counting the days until he can leave. He is hoping to avoid his father, but his money is running out and he is debating making contact again. Before he can even make a final decision on that he finds out that the man he hasn't spoken to in seven years has been dead for a year and has left nothing to Joshua.

When Ezra and Joshua meet in a bar, Joshua is surprised by his attraction since he has always considered himself straight. Ezra is intrigued by Joshua especially after the two do nothing more than share some kisses and then fall asleep together, something Ezra has never done before. When the two meet again things go horribly as Joshua finds Ezra installed in his father's old office, running the company Joshua never wanted. In order for Joshua to get back his father's business and money he will have to take it from Ezra. In order for Ezra to hold onto what he has, he will need to keep it away from Joshua. What better way for both men to reach their goals than for Joshua to work for Ezra at the company he grew to hate?

I enjoyed all the ups and downs of the relationship and the two initially unlikeable main characters managed to find their way into my heart. Obviously both men have more to them than meets the eye. Both are hurt and flawed and trying to break away from their pasts.

Ashley John did a good job with the push and pull of their lust-hate relationship. I enjoyed the intrigue as their business and personal relationships changed and Joshua struggled with whether he should fight to take Ezra down (and why he even wanted to) while Ezra tried not to let his personal feelings cloud the potential dangers in letting Joshua have a place in the business, even as he knew the Board members would try to use Joshua against him for their own gain. There was real tension as the lawyers and certain family members tried their hardest to convince Joshua that Ezra manipulated his father on his deathbed even though the man he was growing closer to was nothing like that, but as secrets are exposed and loyalties are questioned everything they were building together suddenly seems to be crashing down.

Good secondary characters including Joshua's level-headed cousin Violet, his borderline sleazy best friend Levi and Ezra's younger brother Felix added emotional support and some humor. I really felt the sexual tension between Ezra and Joshua and I'd be lying if I didn't say that the angry, hate sex was very hot, but I really liked the slow build of their feelings for each other. The story had a good mix of family drama, sex, angst and up and down emotions and despite its length it moved along quickly. This was my first read by Ashley John, but it won't be my last.

Rick says

WOW!!!!!! FANTASTIC Book!!!!

Lori says

Loved it, review previously at bmr.

"Fuck me," Joshua moaned, "do it." It was a demand, a raw and primal demand. A demand unbothered by sexuality or conflict. A demand from a man who was ready to give in to his desires. A demand from a man who knew what he really wanted. "

Ashley John has a talent. Not just his writing talent, but a talent to make me enjoy books I would not normally. He can take a story and make me want to read it, even if I don't want to read it! I'm kinda talking in riddles, huh.

Okay. When I first read the blurb of Boss, I wanted to read it. It sounded different to what Ashley usually writes - and I have to admit, I liked the fact it was set in England. When I started reading I didn't really like Joshua at all. He sounded like a stuck up, self-entitled, rich brat. He was a stuck up, self-entitled, rich brat. Starting a book with an MC I could barely tolerate is not usually a good sign. But here is where the magic of Ashley's writing comes in, because he makes me care about the rich brat, even while my brain is telling me not to.

Not only did he make me care about the rich brat, he made me care about the antagonist, Ezra, too. Even when Ezra was being a dickhead. Ezra, who came from nowhere and took everything. Ezra with pain in his past and a burning need to succeed. (Ezra, who in my head looked exactly like Idris Elba, even though the description of him was nothing like him! I think it was the name, Ezra/Elba, because before I'd even started I'd got that image in my head - and let's face it, it's a pretty good image to have stuck in your noggin!).

The story of these two - slightly reminiscent of a Prince and a Pauper, set in the business world of today's London - was so readable. Rich boy left with nothing, poor boy given everything. The fight they have, one to regain and one to keep, all while experiencing emotions they've neither been party too before. Love. Neither had truly been loved, not for a long time. Both were toughened, hardened to the world at large, more interested in the tangible than the emotional. To love your enemy though? It takes a whole lot of trust - and trust is a difficult commodity for them both to come by.

As I read this book, I could switch off my emotion and clinically point out things that would normally make me roll my eyes - but this lad is talented, and I am so engrossed in the story and the tale of the characters that I don't care. I really don't. Nit-picky me can take a hike because, as far as I'm concerned, reading is about enjoyment and I damn well enjoyed this story. I really did. I'm super pleased to see there is going to be a second book in this series and would recommend people check out this author, he just gets better and better.

A copy of this book was given in exchange for an honest review.

wesley says

I can't help but compare this to Ella Frank's *Temptation* series and how *BOSS* did not hold a candle to the latter. I was expecting steamy scenes with alphamales trying to show the other who's boss, but this failed to pack the needed punch. The story was all over the place dragging on until the last page leaving behind a lot of loose ends. But what really made this utterly disappointing was that for me, this lacked heart.

It saddened me to realize that this looked more like a book rattling on the pathetic lives of rich men acting like spoiled brats and their seemingly important first-world problems. Joshua's character came off to me as shallow. I had hoped the story would put weight on family but it heavily revolved around talks of money and luxury. The secondary characters just fell in the background and were not given due importance. It irritated me that I wanted to know more about them and connect with them but was never given the chance to. Violet, Levi, Felix, and Constance played very great roles in the development of the story between Joshua and Ezra but it felt like they weren't allowed to *stick*.

Surprisingly though, this was an incredibly fast read despite the lengthy number of pages.

Kade Boehme says

Omg! This sounds FABULOUS!

It was.

Lisa Cullinan says

First of all, I'd like to say I received an ARC for an honest review and second, thanks Ashley! Ok, just so you all know, when I review a book I never really feel it's necessary to go into detail about every aspect of the story. We all read the excerpt's and synopsis of books that we purchase, so I'd rather write about what I took away from the story and how the book made me feel, if that makes any sense! It's no secret that Ashley John is one of the best young authors out there ~ and for good reason ~ when a book makes you feel all kinds of ups and downs and everything in between, I always say that's when the author did his/her job. Boss is no exception ~ the story of Joshua and Ezra was a tornado of greed, trust and loyalty questioned, along with lust, love, commitment and friendship pushed to its limit. Joshua and Ezra needed to find out what each of them was really made of, along with where their priorities stood. Sometimes gaining it all can mean losing it all as well. The question is, is it really worth it? Boss has the perfect measure of all – Great storyline, steaming hot sex, lovable and multi-layered main characters that Ashley conjures up in his own unique style. Great supporting characters as well. I loved Joshua's friend Levi, but especially adored Joshua's cousin, Violet – the only one with common sense enough to help them all find their way !!! Another fabulous job done by Ashley John ♥?

Ashley John says

OUT NOW!

TEASER BELOW!

Ezra ripped back the plastic sheet, plucking a fat, juicy strawberry from the bunch. He bobbed it into his wine before lifting it slowly to his lips. The dark liquid dripped down his chin and onto the stiff collar of his white shirt. He slowly bit into the strawberry, his lips wrapping around the red skin as his eyes stared intensely into Joshua's, narrowing without blinking.

"They're aphrodisiacs," Ezra tossed the green stem into the carton, before plucking out another, "try one."

Joshua was about to dip his hand into the strawberries but before he had a chance, Ezra lifted the strawberry he'd chosen and dangled it in front of Joshua's lips, darting his brows up and down as if daring him to try it from his fingers. He stared at the strawberry, his eyes crossing as he looked down his own nose. Heart pounding in his chest, he told himself he wasn't going to eat a strawberry from another guy's hand. His tongue poked through his lips before sucking it back in.

"Go on," Ezra pushed it forwards, "try it. Are you afraid you'll enjoy it?"

Somehow, Joshua was sure Ezra wasn't just talking about the strawberry.

His lashes fluttered, the pounding of his heart rising about the loud music. He darted up to Ezra's eyes but they were still fixed on him, like they always were. He wanted to pull away, he really did, but before he could stop it, he was ducking under the strawberry, letting Ezra dangle it into his mouth.

Catching it between his teeth, he expected Ezra to move his hand but he didn't. He quickly bit into the strawberry, the sugary juices mixing bitterly with the red wine.

"Nice, isn't it?" Ezra pulled away the leaves, tossing them into the carton.

Joshua chewed the strawberry in silence, his eyes locked on Ezra's. It's like he couldn't stop himself. Whenever he got too close to Ezra, he seemed to lose all of his judgement skills.

"Juicy and sweet," Ezra whispered, sipping his wine, "ripe."

No other words were needed. Joshua wasn't strong enough to resist anymore.

Truuss says

That was an awesome read. Great personalities and good storyline.

I really enjoyed reading. The steamy encounters were really hot.

There were so many feelings in this book

The way it was written was great and smooth.

There is no cliffhanger (Thank you Lord or Ashley;-))

I am not telling the storyline, others will do

A great 5 stars book

I am looking forward to read #2

Gigi says

I stopped at 50%. These men were just too angry for me to get into it and I admit I'm not in the mood for the raw, angry type passion right now. Sometimes I am, but not today. I won't rate since I did not finish and I encourage anyone who enjoys this type of book to give it a try. I might even pick it up again myself eventually.

ARC kindly provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

Tatiana says

DNF at 30%

The whole book is just one giant facepalm. The plot holes are so big you can drive a bus through them.

Andersón. says

#Pray4Orlando what an horrible new.

"It gets easier. You forget to stop crying. You put up walls and eventually you never cry. You can't. You hide behind the walls and the façade and people start to believe it. You start to believe it yourself."

So, I have this book for a while, haven't read it because friend's reviews, there are good ones there are bad ones, some didn't even finish the book but now that I finally read it I only thing in one thing why they didn't finish it?

I feel guilty for liking this book? not even a little I was looking for something angsty and I found it, I loved the book since the beginning I thought it was going to be corny and predictable but none of that, it was a really really good story with an actual interesting plot and two angry mens with really problems.

And the writer, I saw around a couple of his books but never really got my attention until this one, and the style of writting is amazing I really liked that, besides:

Isn't he cute?

Amy says

This book is definitely my favorite Ashley John book now!!!! Joshua comes home for his cousins wedding after being gone 7 years traveling, needing more money from his father is also on the agenda before leaving again. But bad news awaits Joshua and things are about to change. While drinking in a bar he meets a guy, and can't seem to get him out of his head. He's not gay so why is Ezra all he can think about? Ezra can have any guy he wants, he's rich, sexy and takes what he wants and doesn't even remember their names. Then he meets Joshua, it's not just one night that he wants, not a name he can forget. But life has a way of throwing complications, neither man knowing just how connected their lives are. Money, secrets, unanswered questions all get in the way of their happiness, can Joshua get the answers he needs to trust Ezra before it's too late?

This book to me is much greater than 5 stars, it's a fantastic read!!! There's loss and grief, there are laughs and comfort, circumstances and confusion, but out of all that comes happiness and love. You can't go wrong with picking up this book, I hope you enjoy it as much as I did!

JustJen "Miss Conduct" says

A review by The Blogger Girls.

This was one of those books where you start out really not liking a character or characters much in the beginning, but they blossom and grow into something totally different as the story progresses.

This is how I felt about Joshua. Yes, he had reasons for running in the first place, but he has basically lived off his trust fund traveling and partying his life away for the past seven years. It isn't until his cousin and good friend asks him home to attend her wedding, plus the fact that he is running low on funds, that he comes home at all. He learns that his father died over a year ago, he was left with no inheritance, and some outsider is running the company his father tried to get him to take control of but which he basically threw in his father's face before running off to party in foreign countries. Not very many redeeming qualities at this point.

Then we meet Ezra, a seemingly slick rich guy with the cars and ego to match. He screws guys left and right, not even remembering their names. But, he is harboring some dark demons. He has a crazy ex who blames him for the death of their young daughter and has yet to pull herself out of the downward spiral she began five years ago when the event occurred. He carries around a lot of guilt about this, but has put it enough aside to rise to the top of taking over Silverton Industries. He is dealing with the issues surrounding the company, as well as his psycho ex, and, we get glimpses of a few redeeming qualities from him, but not very many.

But when these two meet not knowing who each other really is, things begin to change, mostly from Ezra. They have explosive chemistry, that's for sure. But then the truth comes out when their identities are made known to each other. What ensues is a lot of mistrust from both sides as they try to discover their respective motives. How did Ezra manage to get everything upon Bill Silverton's death? How will Joshua manage to get back that which he believes should be his, etc. Ezra manages to convince Joshua to work with him, keeping him close, but the mystery and unanswered questions remain, even as their sexual chemistry explodes. The sex is extremely hot, especially as these two are pretty angry at each other and their circumstances throughout the story. But eventually, things shift and they are both left thinking about what is more important to them.

I really enjoyed this story. It is long, but it moves along at a good pace and kept my interest throughout. It was well written and the characters were shown in vivid color. There are some great side characters, including Joshua's cousin, Violet, his best, albeit annoying, friend, Levi, and Ezra's little brother, Felix. I was not ready to let these guys go once they finally had their plans figured out and am excited to see there is a sequel planned. This was my first book by Mr. John, and I was quite impressed and looking forward to reading more.

Bev says

This was a strange one. There were lots of typos, and occasions where what was on the page didn't make sense - AT ALL – see below. (Can I politely suggest an editor or proof reader for future stories dear Author??) Having said that, I did enjoy the story and am chuffed to bits that there is a sequel in the works. 4 stars.

Not going into great detail here, the blurb says it all. I wasn't all that keen on Joshua (read... didn't like for quite a large part of the story), he didn't want the responsibility of working in his dad's business, but loved spending the money. He was a selfish, worthless layabout/sponger IMHO (I hate people who think the world owes them a living for doing nothing) BUT he did actually redeem himself (sort of) later in the story, when he admitted to having feelings for another person other than himself...and horror of all horrors, a man!! Ezra, well he was bossy, cocky, arrogant, a bit of a slut and full of secrets, who liked having sex in public places hehe....but he was sooo sexy, the typical bad boy. The sex between Joshua and Ezra was hot and steamy, and you sort of knew that Joshua wouldn't be able to deny his attraction to Ezra for much longer. How Ezra comes to be running the business that Joshua's father built, well you'll have to find out for yourself.

As for the secondary characters, I liked Vi (Joshua's cousin) and Ezra's younger brother Felix...and that was about it. Joshua's travelling companion Levi was a sleazy git and womaniser, Jade (read the story, you'll discover who she is) well she needs to go get a life, away from drugs and drink and the rest of the worthless morons who live on the estate Ezra grew up on in Hackney. *(Have to admit I would have liked some of the backstory on how Ezra came to be working for Silverton's (given his background) and why HE was picked by Joshua's father to be in charge, but maybe we'll get to find out in the sequel 'Steele').*

I'd thought that there was going to be a big battle for the company, with Ezra on one side on his lonesome and Joshua and the rest of the board members on the other, but that seemed to stop rather abruptly when Joshua changed sides, so for me that felt a little rushed. The board members that wanted to control the company through Joshua when Ezra was ousted were just buffoons who wanted their little puppet in charge, and I'm sure that Ezra would have had some choice words for them...but we didn't get to see that unfortunately.

Now for some of the strange quotes that didn't make sense to me...

'The florist decided to get divorced so she went ominous on me. I had to fire her.' AND 'There was a tense varnish over her eyes but he couldn't quite place it.' AND 'they stared at each other motionlessly.' It's not me is it??

Lorraine Lesar says

I feel like I've just climbed Mount Everest with no aid of oxygen – I'm totally breathless, this book was incredible.

Ezra Steel is a man with a past that he intends to keep hidden. He's left a fortune that also includes a business – thank you very much!

Joshua Silverton is a son returning from 7 years of "living it up". He is estranged from his father but needs money. Imagine his horror when he finds out that his very rich father has not only died, but the family fortune has not been left to him but to a complete stranger! which means that now he is flat broke!

Now I have to say that both men would be at the top of my list for "detestable characters". At first glance, they have no redeemable qualities – that's the first glance, the second??... Let's see!

Ezra is straight, but when he meets Joshua in a bar, suddenly kissing the man, seems the obvious thing to do, so he does! They spend the night together – just kissing but no sex. They part. But as fate would have it, they meet again, but this time, Joshua finds out that it's Ezra who has his father's money! Joshua wants it back, Ezra wants to keep it. The solution? Joshua to work for Ezra at the Company, hmmmmmm...

This book was like being on a roller coaster, up and down, round and round, feeling slightly dizzy in between.

Now I love GFY, it's my favourite read, especially when it's a "hate you but secretly want you" type of book and the author did a magnificent job on delivering this storyline. Both men have pasts and both are also flawed – again the author handled this very well. At the beginning, I really didn't like either of them, but that changed, we were shown the true men they were, underneath all that bull**** they wore so well!

There were boardroom fights, lawyers getting involved and manipulations galore. Can these two men fight for what they both want and need? or will it all collapse around them – all for nothing? With great supporting characters that added real depth to the storyline, I loved them all.

Ashley John did a remarkable job of getting me to love two despicable men (at first) and transforming them into characters that I wanted to win together!

Great read, thoroughly enjoyed it and highly recommended.

5* all the way from me.

*****I would like to thank the author for the privilege and opportunity of reviewing this ARC. My review was an honest opinion of the book*****

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