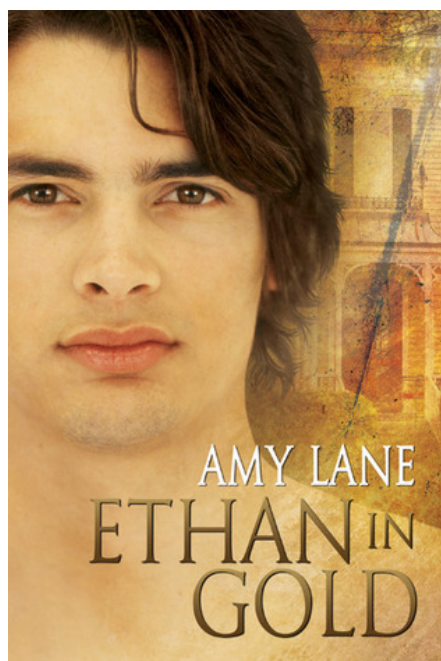




Ethan in Gold

Amy Lane

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Ethan in Gold Amy Lane

Evan Costa learned from a very early age that there was no such thing as unconditional love and that it was better to settle for what you could get instead of expecting the world to give you what you need. As Ethan, porn model for Johnnies, he gets exactly what he wants—comradeship and physical contact on trade—and he is perfectly satisfied with that. He's sure of it.

Jonah Stevens has spent most of his adult life helping to care for his sister and trying to keep his beleaguered family from fraying at the edges. He's had very little time to work on his confidence or his body for that matter. When Jonah meets Ethan, he doesn't see the hurt child or the shamelessly slutty porn star. He sees a funny, sexy, confident man who—against the odds—seems to like Jonah in spite of his very ordinary, but difficult, life.

Sensing a kindred spirit and a common interest, Ethan thinks a platonic friendship with Jonah won't violate his fair trade rules of sex and touch, but Jonah has different ideas. Ethan's pretty sure his choice of jobs has stripped away all hope of a real relationship, but Jonah wants the whole package—the sexy man, the vulnerable boy, the charming companion who works so hard to make other people happy. Jonah wants to prove that underneath the damage Ethan has lived with all his life, he's still gold with promise and the ability to love.

Ethan in Gold Details

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From Reader Review Ethan in Gold for online ebook

Jewel says

3.5 Stars

??**Series Note:** If you haven't read the series and plan to, start at the beginning. Though I think you can read *Dex in Blue* on its own, fairly well, *Ethan in Gold* does not stand alone at all, and if you haven't read *Dex in Blue*, you will be very lost, and probably bored. So just keep that in mind.

I bought the first four books in this series a couple years ago, and for some reason, I can't quite fathom, it's taken me ages to get around to reading them. I've been devouring the series like I devour pretty much any Amy Lane book. She writes angst like no one else and knows how to send her characters through the gauntlet on their way to their HEA. Angst central, let me tell ya, and I eat it up with a spoon.

By and large, I've enjoyed this series, but I've got some mixed feelings about *Ethan in Gold*. I did like the book, and I loved the MCs and supporting characters, but not everything worked well for me.

I absolutely loved Ethan. He's been one of my favorite characters in the series, since the beginning. He's a lovable, dependable, stand-up guy who was dealt a shitty family - especially his mother. After more than a decade of therapy, Ethan decided to go into porn because he **needs** to be touched and he stayed with Johnnies because it was a safe outlet to explore his sexuality and the rest of the guys felt more like family than his own ever did. I hate his mother for starving him for affection in her quest to rid the world of "bad touch" and I hate that Ethan felt responsible for family issues that were squarely out of his control, causing him to regress to self-loathing.

Jonah is a good addition to the extended family. He's no stranger to hard work or responsibility, since he helps care for his terminally ill sister. Jonah was good for Ethan, especially in teaching Ethan that he is worthy of love and porn does not detract from that. He seemed to really "get" Ethan. Jonah's family was pretty great, too, showing that not all families are awful and sometimes they really do stick together and support one another. I think it was important for Ethan to see this side of family. It wasn't something he ever had.

So what didn't work quite so well for me? The timeline for *Ethan in Gold* overlaps a lot with *Dex in Blue*, so parts of the story felt repetitive. Also, with so much going on with all the Johnnies guys, *Ethan in Gold* felt too busy, like the first two books, but especially *Dex in Blue* bled all over this one, and that detracted from Ethan & Jonah too much.

I have some serious mixed feelings about Ethan's sisters, too. On one hand, I understand how everything went down, but on the other hand, Ethan was abandoned, and for someone that **needs** family, that was devastating for him and I felt he forgave them too easily. Ethan is a forgiving kind of guy, in most cases, so I don't think it was out of character, but I do think they need to really see how much they hurt him.

Overall, I recommend the series, including *Ethan in Gold* with just those couple caveats.

Line says

sigh I am upping my rating to 4 stars, even though my **BIGGEST** pet-peeve is found in this book:

'ridiculous forgiveness of family, just because'...

Evan's sisters are the most selfish, narcissistic bitches I've read in a long time: *"Sorry we fell off the face of the earth Evan, sorry we didn't call you on christmas, sorry we cut you off, sorry we moved without you!"* Is what they **SHOULD** have said, but didn't.

I don't give a crap that they 'survived' their horrible mother together, those girls do not deserve Evan, and that part of the plot pissed me off.

I still love Evan though, and I thought Jonah was a really good 'sport' about Evan's career. Also Melly... Fuck, the tears that I cried, it was really sad but beautiful.

SheReadsALot says

Please? *whimpers*

Marc | Rainbow Gold Reviews says

So, I've been really, really looking forward to this book and it was a nice read. A walk down memory lane that reminded me why I loved the other books so much. I found the skin hunger very interesting and in the light of the story understandable and heartbreaking. It wasn't heartbreaking in the way that 'Chase in Shadow' ripped my heart out and stomped on it, though or quite as engaging as I thought Dex and Kane's story was. I thought it was nice to look back at some scenes from books one and two, but for me the filling in the blanks, while i appreciate it, works better for short stories between the main books like in Kate Sherrwood's Dark Horse Series. Here all those scenes we already knew from a different persepective took too much time away from the main couple of the book. I love seeing the guys again, but this book was about Ethan and the sacrificial virgian who threw himself in front of the altar of the sex god :P The dynamic was great, I loved Jonah's sister and the complex but loving relationships in his family. Would have loved to see (view spoiler) But there were just too few scenes focusing on their relationship (and too few focusing on Ethan's porn career imo. He describes it as something he needs, but we mostly get short recaps of johnnies scenes from former books. (view spoiler)

Anyway, for me the book was tragic and sometimes heartbreaking, but not overly angsty. The MCs both had hard life's but seem rather well adjusted and while I thought they made a sweet couple, their story just didn't capture me as much as the two previous ones. Hope the next one is gonna be in the present and will take more time to develop the romance. Still, I love these characters and books and my enjoyment of this one is still worth 4 stars to me. :)

Looking forward to John Black and Tommy Bright :D

Breann says

Another heartbreaking tale of one of our boys from Johnnies.

What I loved was the first 20% or so, setting up Ethan's character and his reasons for joining Johnnies. I instantly fell in love with Ethan and I felt for him with what his family had put him through. And really, it was his family. Being molested as a child seemed to be the least of his problems compared to his horrible mother. He had some serious issues, so his decision to join the porn industry made total sense. He needed touch and affection, so might as well get paid for it, right?

What I also loved was Jonah and his determination to fix the loneliness he saw in Ethan. He had his own shit to deal with but was still there for Ethan and so, so devoted to him. Plus, he's a virgin. *bites lip*

These guys were great. They had their baggage, of course, but were a pleasure to read about. But Ethan and Jonah together? Meh. I just never really felt all the feels I should have felt. I didn't get the pull, the attraction or the chemistry. Nothing.

That might be because I don't think they got the story they deserved. There was a lot of time spent with each character and their family, or with the other guys from Johnnies. If they had more time together I may have fell in love with their romance a little more.

And another thing, the books in this series all overlap, timeline-wise. So what we got was some angst from Chase, from Dex and then from Ethan. Not only did it take away from the time we were able to spend with Ethan and Jonah, but it felt like there was triple the angst. Also, I kept forgetting what drama happened to who and by the end it felt like a big mess of angst and I was a tad (and by a tad, I mean a lot) lost as to what was really happening. It was too confusing and just too much.

So, I liked it. Was it my favorite Amy Lane book? Not by a long shot. Am I glad I read it? Absolutely! I still want more of these boys from Johnnies.

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

****3.5 stars****

I'm a tiny bit conflicted about this book. On one hand, Amy Lane's angst-filled books are like chocolate for me. I can't get enough. I loved her tormented main characters and their fight for their happy endings. Ethan is no different. I really liked the bones of this story- the ideas that Amy Lane had for this character. I also always like Amy Lane's style. She writes books that feel sexy and vulnerable. I always feel like her characters are splayed out for my consumption.

My issue with this book is in the details. My first problem is that I thought that Ethan was a bit inconsistent. It seemed very out of character for him to do certain things (I'm trying for no spoilers!) when he seemed very well adjusted, thanks to his years of therapy. Though he craved affection, he didn't seem to have self-loathing, and when those aspects were introduced into the story, I felt like it didn't fit what I had come to learn about Ethan.

My other quibble is the overlapping time frame with Dex and Chase's stories. I has been almost a year since I read Dex in Blue and I felt like I needed a refresher course to follow along with parts of this book. I also think that by trying so hard to tie everything into Chase and Dex's stories, some of the focus was lost from Ethan and Jonah. I felt like the other players were distracting to some extent.

This book has many positives: The supporting characters of the family members were unique and multi-

layered and brought great depth to the story. I also liked the evolution of Ethan and Jonah's romance. I'm always impressed by Amy Lane and I was again with this story. However, I'm hoping we can get more focus on the main characters in the next installment in the Johnnies series.

****Copy provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review****

Lauraadriana says

The Porn Star and the Virgin...Like we didn't see that coming!!!

EXCEEEEEEEPT with this book like with every other one I've read from Amy Lane there is a lot more to the story. Why? Because first and foremost, this story was HUMAN. About people. People being good, bad, weak, strong, hating, loving, triumphant, defeated, resilient and downtrodden. Just people, Amy writes about the nature of humans, of the lives they are handed and the paths they take. How much it REALLY takes to make a good life out of what sometimes is very very little. How it can be that some people can be family to strangers, and others can hurt their own flesh and blood to the breaking point.

When I finished this book my first thought was "I am so glad Amy Lane writes what she feels she needs to, and not what will make people happy." Because her books to me are precious. They are simple stories really, but what makes them rich and moving is that she gives us her characters with a nakedness and honesty that it challenges us. Just offers them up to us in their brokenness. She MAKES us see the ugly, the bad and the weak in them. She forces us to acknowledge that yes, every happy ending has its dark spots, and ugly chapters, that smiles sometimes have been paid for with a lot of blood and tears, that happy moments a lot of times come as the result of walking away from a lot of hurt, that in the end being able to look back from a better place IS WORTH IT ALL.

Evan Costa (Ethan in the pornosphere) is a young man who had something pretty awful happen to him when he was a little boy, someone did a really bad thing to him. The saddest part was that his mom never forgave HIM for it, and she proceeded to make him and his sisters pay for her own bitterness. Evan's mom became a hateful woman after Evan's "incident", she never hugged him, never showed affection. He became the embodiment of all the things she could not control in this world. It hurt Evan so bad, not a hug, not a kind gesture for so long. He was starving for any kind of human contact. If it hadn't been for his therapist, and his friends from the anime club at school things could have gone really bad for him. He knew it too. He had seen a few of his friends fall down holes that they never crawled back out of.

Evan needed touch. He craved it, and as far as he could tell a perfect way to ensure he was touched A LOT was going into porn. He already had the body and the face and he wasn't very interested in school. Also getting to have sex with beautiful men (who were also pretty great guys) was a nice bonus.

So he took the plunge on the porn and became, Ethan, italian porn good. He kept living at home, with his mom and sisters in that hateful, stagnant environment his family home had become until his secret got out, and then he couldn't anymore. Things were touch and go for a while there, but he HAD his friends and THEY had his back THE WHOLE TIME. He wasn't alone, he knew that. He also knew that he had to make some changes.

There is Jonah too, the skinny young guy who works with Tommy at the Petsmart. He is cute, if a little on the scrawny side, and he looks INNOCENT. Like untouched by anything dirty. Ethan is taken with him. He has this crappy job, and a sixteen year old sister with a horrible disease. But he seems happy, and gets so excited talking about comic books with Ethan. The guy is tired though, him and his family are pretty much

dedicated to making his sister Amelia comfortable, and as healthy as they can keep her, which sadly is not very healthy at all.

Ethan is kind of amazed that Jonah and his family were not tearing each other up under the stress, his own family would have imploded. Jonah is so brazen too. He knows Ethan wants him and he is not letting him get away. Not even once he finds out about Ethan's big secret.

The problem is that clearly it can not work between them, I mean HELLO! Jonah is good and pure, and Ethan is a dirty whore. How can that work? He can't do it. He can't soil Jonah, his family and his dying sister for goodness sake! He needs to just leave, get out, make Jonah realize that he is NOT one of the good guys. He is damaged goods, someone whose entire family could walk out on without even a glance back. That's who he is, but Jonah refuses to see that. He is so stubborn, he keeps looking at Ethan like some kind of hero, and it is killing him, because there is NO WAY he could live up to any of that.

But he FALLS, how can he not catch a little bit of that hope bug going around his little family of friends? Things are happening around him that are making him feel like he can have a little more too. Tommy and Chase are going to be daddies. Dex and Kane are making a go of it, they're in love. HE'S in love. He is needed and wanted by someone he needs and wants right back. He can see it now, a future that will be better than what he ever could have envisioned for himself.

Ethan and Jonah were real heartbreakers. But they were such a joy too, they gave so much to each other. Ethan needed to know about unconditional love. He needed to experience it, needed to understand he DESERVED it. Not because he was good, or pure or better, just because that is what people get for being good people, who HAVE good people.

Jonah, he knew all about that kind of love, he had it from his family, gave it to his sister as much as he could. But after putting her first for so long, he needed to start thinking of himself, of the things he wanted and needed like love, sex, fun, a life... Little things and BIG things he just never had time to desire before. Once they came together, they were ready to fight to make things work. Make a life, together, they weren't sure where they would get to, but they would walk there together.

I loved this book, and I don't want to pile it on here, but the way that Amy has created this series to me is just brilliant. We've been in the same time frame for three books. Six men, three love stories, all happening in this little universe of Johnnie's studio. I was at home as soon as I opened this book, I was invested in pretty much every character, and wanted to hear about where Ethan was, and who the man was that could help him get to his happy ending.

Again, what can I even say? Amy Lane is my lady. This series is a complete joy to read, and I hope we get much much more from the Johnnies world.

Natasha says

Sorry Ethan, I just liked Dex better.

An open letter to Ethan and Jonah.

Dear Ethan,

Nothing personal man, well, maybe it's a little personal, since I think you're pretty alright and your boyfriend is meh. Your story was good. It was fine. I liked it a lot more in the beginning, but you started to lose me. The first chapter, I thought I was going to cry. This happened a few times in the beginning of the book, but alas, my torrid love affair with you died cold.

I haven't seen this side of you in your buddies Chase and Dex's books, and I liked what I saw. I'm totally into the hot guido thing. Tormented soul with a body of iron. Hot. The first time Jonah met you, I swooned. Pretty hard. But maybe it was the idea of you, the idea of getting to spend more time with the Johnnies boys that really had me.

As some of my other friends mentioned, I didn't understand why you did some things you did. You seemed relatively well adjusted from the time you were twelve and could talk to your shrink about how it wasn't your fault and you know bad things happen. One day it seemed like **BAM**, suddenly you're emotionally tormented over all the stuff from your past, and I don't really get it. I didn't get you running out and getting a tattoo on your ass either. You never **seemed** to want to inflict pain or shame on yourself, and you definitely didn't seem the impulsive type. You never even showed any remorse toward your profession until you got it tattooed on your cheek. So I dunno, man. Your family sucks, by the way. All of them can eat shit.

Dude, I don't really like your boyfriend. Sorry. I did at first. Cute nerdy boy with big eyes for the bronzed meatball, but really, I found him kind of annoying. He seemed needy and pushy to me, and weird. He did stuff that I did when I was 16 and attention starved, like badgering you about your past and rooting through your stuff and claiming keepsies on clothing. I did that when I was 16, not 22. The way he also claimed, when trying to win you over (aka. obsessively stalking), that no one would ever take care of you like he would. Sorry, but that ain't cool to say, especially to someone like Ethan with all these emotional detachment problems about people leaving him. Yeah, not cool bro.

Melly was the best character. She's awesome. How interesting and unique to read about a character with a terminal problem who ISN'T a fighter. She was so cute and sweet and I wanted to hug her indefinitely.

Your romance with your boyfriend was weird. Sure, the sex was kind of hot because you're packing a baseball bat in your pants, but I wasn't overly impressed. I thought I'd like you two together but in the end, I really didn't. Your dates weren't very cute, your hangouts weren't anything special, and in the end I was hoping you'd break up (oops).

Overall, I liked your story. I like you enough, Ethan, with your tortured past that explains why you're such a slut for touches and why somewhere like Johnnies is where you ended up. Did I skim the last 80 pages of your story? Yeah. Skim is a strong word. More like skipped, but let's not go into details. I still enjoyed hearing from you, but I'm kind of sad I didn't love your story more.

PS. Tell Chase I said 'Hey' and tell Dex he is a sweet angel baby and I'll buy him a castle in the clouds one day.

Yours Truly,

Natasha

Vanessa North says

It's no secret that I cry over books. I cry a lot, and often, and I feel no shame for that, because books just *do* that to me. Amy Lane in *particular* has a talent for making me cry. But you know, it's usually a discreet eye-wiping thing and maybe in the case of one book in particular, a sobbing into my dog's fur thing.

It's not a full-on ugly cry as I'm driving because I can't stop thinking about the book and all the ways it completely wrecked me. Except with Ethan in Gold, that's exactly what it was.

I eventually will write a real review where I talk about the plot and Amy's stunning talent with the words, and all that. I can't do that yet, because seriously, y'all CRIED OUT. I'm dehydrated from all the crying. But this book? It's beautiful, and it's sad, and it's so, so perfect in spite of all of that sad.

Real review to come at some later date.

MsMiz (Tina) says

There is no way, not in a million years... will not be able to fall in love with Ethan. Love my double negs!!!

The story line runs parallel to Dex in Blue as well as Chase in Shadows. You will be better served to have read the other stories in the series, as those characters have a serious foot print in this book. I do not usually like parallel story lines, I am more of a move forward, move on kind of reader. But it works here as while the timeline is the same, the MCs story is not. Amy also did a really great job integrating the timelines, so that you are not always screaming 'DAMMIT I KNOW THAT ALREADY'!

As for Ethan and Jonah - there story is not smooth, not perfect, but again it works. Jonah may be inexperienced in men and sex, but he is aged beyond his years with insight and understanding. And this kid, he will stop at NOTHING to get Ethan. Ethan is the big lovable teddy bear who needs his porn family like he needs air. He has a lot to over come in this story and he does - trust and love and hugs, that is all he has ever and will ever want and need.

Catherine says

I loved this book! I loved this whole series, but *Ethan in Gold* was hands-down the best of the bunch. I cried big, fat, ugly tears throughout most of this book and wanted to rage at the world more than once, but I *still* loved this book. Jonah was sweet and strong - everything a big brother and good boyfriend should be - and Ethan was one of the most interesting characters I have ever come across. Ever. Amy Lane's descriptions of his "skin hunger" were so heartbreaking I just wanted every character in a book to hug him *all of the time*.

Ugh, I could gush for ages...

To everyone who recommended this book and/or this series to me: THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Macky says

3.5* rounded up.

Okay where do I start? Ethan and Jonah two characters I really liked as individuals but as a couple? I don't know. This book started really well as we got Ethan's early backstory which in true Amy style was poignant and sad and as its outcome left Ethan starved for a loving touch as he grew older, I wanted to jump into the pages to give him the hugs he yearned for and in a way because of Jonah's family worries I wanted to do the same for him.

No doubt, throughout the Johnnies series Amy has created really likeable, endearing characters who pull your heartstrings but something was missing in the actual romantic pairing of these two guys and I think it was because there was so much going on in the background regarding all the past characters from the series, that Ethan and Jonah got swallowed up and pushed into the background until approx half way, when the story started to concentrate more on them and their own issues and skittish romance.

This story's timeline runs alongside the other two books so you're getting a sort of mash up of all three together and to be honest seeing as at least twelve months has come and gone and I've slept since I read Chance's & Dex's books I got a bit confused, because being an old bird with not the best recall, I found myself having to dig deep to put it all together and I have to say I actually found myself easily distracted and kept putting the book to one side.

However... Once I got to bed where it was quiet and I could concentrate more, I found myself engaging and connecting more with the guys so for me it was the second part of the story that saved the day and I ended up enjoying it a lot more than I was expecting from my earlier impression.

My favourite book is still Dex in Blue. I adored that book but I still love Johnnies overall and I think a second read of the whole three books back to back (in the future) might make me see Ethan's story in a different light. I hope so because I also wonder whether my own mood might have been a bit off kilter.

So ... that's why its not quite a 4 star but at the same time its Amy Lane and I still heart the guys from johnnies so it gets rounded up. If you read Johnnies then I still reccomend you add this and I'm definitely staying with the series as like I said these guys are all endearing characters who you can't help getting invested in. I'm hoping we get Johns tale next but I guess we'll have to wait and see.

Alvin says

ANOTHER WONDERFUL JOHNNIES STORY!

This one was good too!

Again Ms. Lane's great character building is seen in this third installment of the Johnnies series. I loved the characters!

MAY CONTAIN SOME SPOILERS.

Ethan! In Chase in Shadow and Dex in Blue, I think of him as a cuddly gentle giant. But he turns out to be even more of an awesome person. Molested when he was 5 years old, his mother shut down on him, making

Ethan miss her touches and hugs. I think this is when he started to crave for them. And I felt sorry for him for going through all that and the events that happened during his high school. All of them were unfortunate. He joined porn because he gets his touches and hugs there. And when his family found out about it, I felt bad for him. It's also sad that he thinks lowly of himself and he feels undeserving for Jonah's attention. I like Ethan, he's not the most memorable of the Johnnies cast but he is still likeable.

Jonah. I like him! I like how average he is. It makes him very *relatable*. I love that he takes care of his sister very well. Also it's nice to see Jonah's parents supportive of his sexuality because throughout the series, all of the MC's parents were not supportive.

Jonah's character is interesting for me because it made a different couple dynamic for the series. In this one it's between the porn star and an outsider. I loved their dynamic, it's quite refreshing from the other books in the series. I think Ethan & Jonah's story were honest and believable.

I loved the moment when Jonah discovered where Ethan and Tommy (used to) work!

But the results were worth it. "Johnnies," he read from the website's tagline. "'Where all the boys can come home with you.' Cute. Let's see. Tango, there you are--omigod, Tommy, would you *look* at the size of your fucking penis. It's like a whole other you!..."

Hahaha! This made my night! I wonder how it feels like to find out your boss was such a hot mofo.

And of course true to Ms. Amy Lane's style, she stirred up some shit for Ethan & Jonah to endure. And the angst in here was not annoying or unbearable for me. It was just right.

Things that maybe I don't like, maybe as same as the previous books. That scene on Kelsey's home, are they allowed to clean the mess? Isn't that a crime scene?

Overall, this is another hit from Ms. Lane. I liked it and it's a quality read. Hence, earning a 4 star rating from yours truly.

I loved the series as a whole. And it made me turn to a Amy Lane fan! I'm looking forward for her other books!

A RECOMMENDED READ! You'll at least like this if you loved the first two Johnnies books. Enjoy!

Out of the three books, which one is your favorite?

Probably Dex In Blue, it was easy to read and I loved both Dex and Kane. I admire Dex and Kane is just adorbs.

If there's a fourth installment, who would you want to star on it?

I'm not sure. Maybe Bobby? or Digger? I don't know. I have the feeling that this maybe the last for the series. But I would like to know what you guys think or if you have news about the series. Thanks!

my Chase in Shadow review

my Dex in Blue review

my Super Sock Man review

Kaje Harper says

This is the third book in the "Johnnies" series, and the least able to stand alone. I strongly recommend you start with *Chase in Shadow*, because what happens with Chase is an emotional echo through the subsequent books (and it's also my rip-your-heart-out favorite.)

This is Ethan's book. He has a crazy mother, who took a traumatic event that marred the perfection of family life when Ethan was five, as a reason to turn her childrens' lives into micromanaged and isolated coldness. Ethan got no further physical affection, and as a result he is so needy for touch that he will do anything to get it. He's known for a while that he is gay. Signing up for porn was a way to get touched and held, and because he joined Johnnies, he also got Dex and Tommy and other co-workers who care about each other as friends. For 2 years, he's felt like that was enough. When he meets Jonah, a young man coping with family stress of his own, Ethan is instantly attracted. But he feels as though he already sacrificed his chance at an ordinary relationship, by choosing the porn as a source of touch, and in any case he's not ready to give up the security of that known resource for a maybe relationship with an inexperienced, too-good-for-a-pornstar guy.

Jonah is a sweet, out, gay guy who would have done more with his life already if he didn't have a divorced mother struggling to take care of his teen sister with Cystic Fibrosis. CF isn't the death sentence it once was, but it is a boatload of chronic care, and little setbacks, and bigger crises, and costs and strain. Jonah is doing his best to help out. But he wants a life too, and he thinks with Ethan he can maybe finally have a boyfriend. If only he can get Ethan to agree that there's something between them. And to maybe share a little bit of the palpable obstacles that Ethan is never willing to discuss.

This is another angsty entry in this series, especially with regard to Ethan's family. He had a childhood trauma, which shouldn't have overshadowed his life. But his mother's pathological reaction to it has been a life-long pall over him, and her crazies spilled onto his sisters lives, until Ethan ended up completely isolated. You have to sympathize with his neediness, and his unwillingness to let that stuff touch someone he really cares for, or to give up his security blanket of the porn.

There were emotional moments for Ethan, and for Jonah, in this book that resonate with me. The time frame overlaps the other two books, which means that we see familiar events from yet a third (and more distant) viewpoint. Those didn't have the intensity that they carried in the previous books. This felt less sweet than *Dex*, less angsty than *Chase*, but still a strong story of two men who belonged together finding the long way there. Now I look forward to John's story (which I believe is book 4), and to seeing all these characters move forward, since any romance for John clearly has to be out ahead in time from the first three stories.

Debra says

3.75 stars

Chase in Shadow and *Dex in Blue* are two of my 5 star, favorite, read multiple times books. Unfortunately I did not connect as much with *Ethan in Gold* as I did with those two. I really liked both Ethan and Jonah but did not feel the chemistry of them as a couple until about 75% of the way through the book. It was also lacking the gut churning emotion that, to me, defined both of the other books, although the first 15% of the book did have me grabbing for the tissues.

Again the story's timeline runs parallel to the first two books, but we are given Ethan's viewpoint. This is very well done and adds dimension to the events we already have seen, rather than just being a retelling of a

prior storyline.

Ethan/Evan's mother is up there with the worst mothers in fiction for me. The woman alienated a 5 year old Evan from his entire family, resulting a desperate need for human contact that he was forced to find outside of his family, eventually resulting in an 18 year old Ethan working for Johnnies. Ethan's whole family is under the thumb of this woman and the resulting damage is heartbreaking.

Jonah's upbringing was completely different. A loving family whose lives revolve around caring for his younger sister, who suffers with Cystic Fibrosis. The two meet when Ethan accompanies Tommy to his interview at Petsmart, where Jonah works. A friendship develops, but Ethan fights tooth and nail against the desire to make it more, especially considering Jonah is a virgin (although he is aggressively campaigning to change that) and Ethan suddenly thinks of himself as a whore who is not worthy.

There are plenty of scenes with Chase, Tommy and Dex, as well as Jonah and Ethan's families. I was really looking forward to the story being the first one where a Johnnies boy was going to be with someone not in the business. I can't put my finger on why I had such a hard time connecting with the two as a couple, but I did enjoy their friendship.

That being, said I am looking forward to more of this series, and will probably give this one another read later on. Bobby, who was introduced in Dex in Blue seems to be all set for a story of his own and I wouldn't mind seeing how Dex's plans for life beyond Johnnies work out for everyone.
