



Appearances Matter

Jeff Erno

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Todd Hoffman, age sixteen, doesn't have an easy life. Not only does he live with his alcoholic mother in a rundown mobile home, but he's also a bit of a social outcast at school. He doesn't have the nice clothing, shoes, and car the other students have. He has only one really close friend, Shannon, but even she doesn't understand him completely. He knows he can never confide in her his deepest secret. He can't tell anyone, not even his favorite teacher.

But Todd finds a way to express his feelings when he learns about fan fiction. Being a gifted writer, Todd begins to write stories--gay stories--about another boy he's secretly crushing on. He posts the stories on a fan fiction website.

When the object of Todd's affection one day notices him and asks him out, Todd feels like he is suddenly living a dream, that his literary fantasy is becoming real. Soon, however, he realizes that reality and fantasy are two different things, and he has to determine if Galen, the high school soccer team captain, is the boy of his dreams or just another dumb jock.

This is book three of the Dumb Jock series, and the story is linked to the previous books by featuring several common characters. Jeff and Brett are present as are Adam and Trevor. Book three is a continuation of the first two installments, but also serves as a standalone read.

Appearances Matter Details

Date : Published August 25th 2012 by Amazon Digital Publishing (first published August 12th 2012)

ISBN :

Author : Jeff Erno

Format : Kindle Edition 218 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Young Adult, Sports and Games, Sports

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From Reader Review Appearances Matter for online ebook

Kevin says

Boy meets boy, time passes, then boy and boy fall in love. Good things happen, then some bad things, but love prevails.

It seems like a simple recipe, but Jeff Erno is able to make it romantic, fun and keep you wanting more. It's a very enjoyable book that made me happy that I found it and read it. (I actually devoured it over two days, and was sorry work and other matters kept me from reading it in one "sitting".)

I recommend it.

Dee says

Seemed too easy. Nice read but the ending was no where close to reality.

A Girl Has No Name says

2.5 stars rounded up to 3!

Well, I'm not entirely sure how to feel about *Appearances Matter*, the **third installment in the Dumb Jock series by Jeff Erno**. Once I got used to Erno's writing style, I really enjoyed the story about Jeff and Brett. The second installment has already been a little repetitive in style, but it had the father – son elements between Jeff/Brett and their son Adam making it quite interesting.

Unfortunately, *Appearances Matter* is once again very similar. It's not that I didn't enjoy the story in itself, but it was rather easy to see things coming after having read the first two books in the series. The main characters were also a little flat and I just didn't care about them that much. It was still an okay story and I'm therefore rounding up the 2.5 star rating. I might still go for the other parts of the series in order to not leave in unfinished, but **I really hope that we will get a slightly different setting and better character development in the next one.**

Martijn Hartman-maatman says

Another great book by what is quickly becoming one of my favorite authors. However, this book leaves me with some questions. How did they get the law pushed through so fast? What happened to the people that didn't like the relationship?

All in all, a great addition to the series. I hope there will be more in this series.

Becca Finn says

This was a good and fairly average M/M coming of age romance. I have enjoyed books by Jeff Erno previously, and this was shaping up to be no exception. But then I got to the end.

Number one, the scene with the President, and the bill passing so fast was unrealistic.

Number two, you really didn't get resolution about Yvonne and why she did what she did. Was she jealous? Was she just a jerk? You don't really find out. Sure she spoke to the media, but that didn't tell me anything.

Number three. The thanksgiving scene. I cannot tell you how much I felt like hurling the book across the room. It simply made me gag. Too much sweetness, what with everybody giving speeches on what they were thankful for. How every single good character just shows up.

Look, I know that a romance needs a HEA. That really refers to the main protagonists. Not every single character needs to have their lives turn out perfectly.

However, I still enjoyed the rest of it and I will not let this one book stand in the way of how I view the author in general.

V says

This sequel in my opinion was the weakest of the series, however still an amazing story.

Trisha Harrington says

My review of Appearances Matter.

This book was provided by Dreamspinner Press in exchange for a fair and honest review.

John Sontag says

Using a much used formula, this novel for the YA audience began quite well. The first person narrative held my attention during the initial part, which was Todd Howard's moment of glory. He was receiving recognition for his writing talents that were encouraged by his English teacher.

As he delivers his essay to the entire school, I felt elated that such an honest and forthright young man could see beyond the labels that were so indiscriminately used to hurt his fellow students.

His passion is conveyed to the students and one in particular. For a long time, Todd has been crushing on a jock, an utterly unattainable one, or so he thinks. But that is about to change. When Galin Caulfield, the golden haired son of a U. S. Senator professes his mutual attraction to the average looking Todd, it appears that his dreams have come true.

Unfortunately, what follows as their initial attraction blossoms into real love, the story becomes formulaic, stagnating in a host of previously used events and the storyline begins to fall apart. Use of manipulative scenes, alcoholic mother, fear of exposure, unrealistic acceptance of homosexuality by fellow students and team mates, a quick finale that slips in gay bashing by a friend that is never explained makes for just an average, easy read.

There's just not enough going on here to really make this story rise above the rest of the myriad of other average coming out stories.

John Ames says

I love a good nerd/jock novel. I find them fresh and interesting even though some people claim that they have been retold a hundred times. But have they? If you go looking for them, you could only come across one or two. So, when Jeff Erno came out with the third installment of the Dumb Jock series, I had to read it.

The story starts with Todd Hoffman. He has had a pretty rough life since his mom is an alcoholic and they basically live in a trailer park. He is an outcast of life who finds comfort in writing gay fan fiction. His life completely changes after he wins an essay contest at school and his secret crush, Galen Caulfield, notices him and asks him. Galen is the local high school soccer team captain and heart robe. Sparks fly and soon, they find themselves madly in love with each other. But, things are not perfect since their relationship is forbidden by several factors. You have to read this story to find out what they are.

I loved the fact that several previous characters of the series are featured and are linked perfectly well. The one thing that I didn't like was the ending. It was just too sudden. I was expecting a few more chapters, but that left me wanting to read part two of this tale. Overall, Dumb Jock 3: Appearances Matter was an amazing read. I highly recommend this novel to everyone who has read the previous book in the series and for those who enjoy a good nerd/jock theme novel.

Edina Rose says

I read this because I wanted more Jeff and Brett, the two main characters in Dumb Jock and the parents of Adam, one of the heroes in Another Dumb Jock. Well, there was some J&B but I would have liked more. I understand it's not their book, though, so it's OK.

This third book in the Dumb Jock series is just there, nothing special. Galen and Todd's romance was too much a replica of the romance in books 1 and 2. It didn't add anything new to the series.

John says

Another great installment in the Dumb Jock series. Yet another sweet and romantic story. Jeff Erno uses the same formula he's used with the two previous books, and why change it if it ain't broke right? I agree with others that the ending was a bit too good, too fast. Almost truly unrealistic. But hey, it's fiction, so anything goes. If you can overlook that sentiment, then this is just another amazing book.

If I had to rank the books in the series so far, this one would probably be last. However, I still loved this book and love the series even more. Can't wait to read the sequel.

Jen Wilson says

I love this book.

Elci says

[What about Chad? Did he and Wesley pay for what they did? I don't understand how the law passed so quickly. (hide spoiler)]

Lori says

D'ya know, this book followed the same jock, tutor, coming out, tragedy formula of the others in the series, but really I didn't care. They were sweet books with a great message for ... I was going to say teens but really it's for everyone ... about how it's okay to be yourself, it might not always be easy but if people don't like you for you then it's their problem, not yours. I enjoyed these books, a lot.

Bill Gray says

I really enjoyed Appearances Matter, which they actually do, as many of the characters find out. The concept of this series is a good one, and an often true one - high school jock and high school "nerd" fall for one another and must deal with secrecy or turbulence. Or both, in that order. The author knows his turf and has created a good series of books that appeal to gay coming of age fans.
