



Tribute Act

Joanna Chambers

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Nathan Bridges hadn't intended to settle down in his home town of Porthkennack—he just ended up staying after saving the family business from ruin. The truth is, Nathan can't stop himself from stepping in when problems arise. He's a fixer, the man everyone turns to. But even fixers can't solve everything.

When Nathan's sister needs an organ transplant, it's his stepbrother, Mack, who the family turns to as Rosie's only potential living donor. Nathan's curiosity about the stepbrother he's never met turns to shock when he realises that Mack is his latest—and hottest ever—one-night stand.

Nathan and Mack agree to forget their single night together, but that's easier said than done. When Mack moves in to Nathan's place to recuperate after surgery, it's not just the sexual tension between them that keeps growing. Against all the odds, and despite Mack's wariness of intimacy, the two men grow close enough that Nathan begins to wonder what it would take to mend the rift that's kept Mack and his father estranged for over a decade . . . and whether Mack might consider staying with Nathan in Porthkennack for good.

Tribute Act Details

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From Reader Review Tribute Act for online ebook

Izengabe says

Me temo que este no ha hecho click. No le puedo poner ninguna pega, igual lo único que no me ha convencido es el final, aparte de eso no tengo nada que reprocharle, es una lectura muy agradable, pero no me ha llegado al corazón.

CrabbyPatty says

Nathan is a fixer. He left his London marketing career to come home to Porthkennack to save Dilly's - the ice cream shop his stepfather Derek started - and now he's part-owner and up to his neck in taxes, bills and scheduling. He wishes that he was able to donor his liver to his sister, but isn't a match. Even when Nathan meets a long, lean, very hot guy at the bar one night, he's thinking of how to "fix" him. Mack claims he just wants to fuck, but Nathan senses Mack's vulnerability and knows he craves intimacy:

Somehow, I just knew this was exactly what Mack needed. The way he'd pressed his head against my hand as I'd stroked his hair. The way he so eagerly sucked me down, then told me he needed nothing. These clues pointed to a man who wasn't comfortable asking for things with words but his body was crying out for what he needed, silently begging me. For some reason, it felt like I could read him—and that maybe he could read me too.

When it turns out that Mack is Derek's son from a early marriage AND is donating part of his liver to Nathan's kid sister Rosie, things get ... complicated. Mack ends up rooming with Nathan during his post-surgery recovery period and their relationship develops slowly and carefully. Mack isn't comfortable with expressing much of anything, but it is well worth the wait as Mack and Nathan sort out their feelings and realize how deep their emotional connection runs.

Tribute Act is also a story of family relationships and how difficult it can be to get beyond angry words and actions to arrive at the hurt feelings and fear, and then move past them to create a stronger family bond. I love the family Joanna Chambers gives us here, complete with its laughter and tears, and its good heart. Mack and Nathan's relationship is only part of the story and the way everything fits together into this family-based story is perfection. 4.5 stars.

I received an ARC from Riptide Publishing, via NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.
Review also posted at Gay Book Reviews - check it out!

J Too Many Books Too Little Time says

3.5 Stars!

I didn't like this one as well as the Garrett Leigh's I've read from this series. But I did like it.

It just didn't pack the emotional punch the GL's did. I didn't quite connect to the story or the characters like I

did in the others.

But it was a nice, quiet, easy read. Low angst with some steam.

Annie says

I'm a fan of the Porthkennack series, having read all but two of them, so I picked up Tribute act before reading the blurb and it turned out to be a completely unexpected treat. I also hadn't read anything by this author before, but I'll certainly be looking for her works in the future.

Told exclusively from Nathan's point-of-view, Tribute Act was one of those stories that grabbed my attention and refused to let go. I liked the initial meeting between Nathan and Mack as well as the unexpected familial connection between heroes. Both men were interesting and personable, and I enjoyed how their personalities steadily unfurled over the course of the book. This was definitely not the average stepbrother story. The romance was a slow burn despite the initial hook-up early on, providing sufficient time to establish a significant emotional connection and build chemistry, as well as allow for personal growth for both Mack and Nathan. The pacing itself had more of a slow to moderate rhythm, but the storyline and romantic connection kept me invested. If you favor complicated connections and slow-burn romances, I definitely recommend this title. Tribute Act proved to be another great addition to the Porthkennack series and ensured I'll be reading more of Miss Chambers's contemporary romances.

Reviewed by Annie from Alpha Book Club

Elsa Bravante says

Hay libros que ves las críticas, o incluso los empiezas, y crees que te van a agradar, no mucho más, pero luego los lees y no sabes por qué te han emocionado, han tocado, por lo que sea, algo dentro de ti. Esto me ha pasado a mí con este libro. Me gusta mucho la forma de escribir de la autora, y sabía que me gustaría, lo que no sabía es que me gustaría tanto.

Mack y Nathan viven una historia de amor entre dos personas corrientes, en un entorno cualquiera, dentro de un ambiente nostálgico, familiar, con un ritmo pausado y lleno de emotividad. Dos protagonistas que despiertan mucha ternura, con inseguridades, sexys y dulces al mismo tiempo, y unos secundarios que son un apoyo indispensable para el desarrollo de la trama.

No pasa demasiado, solo lo más importante, que dos personas se enamoran.

No me gustaría dejar pasar la ocasión para decir lo mucho que me gusta la portada, con ese modelo absolutamente maravilloso.

Renée says

Nathan is a fixer. He came home **temporarily** to fix the financial nightmare his mom and stepdad have let their ice cream shop/café become. But once it's fixed, Nathan realizes they're just gonna let it become what it was. Neither has a good head for business. Well, okay then, he'll move back home and stay on as a partner.

He can use his marketing degree that way.

Then his sister is diagnosed with a rare liver disease and needs a transplant. He'll donate a portion of his liver. Except he isn't a match, which kills this big-brother-fixer just a bit.

Mack is the hottie in a beanie that Nathan sees in a club one night. Once eye contact is made, game over. Even though Nathan doesn't really like one-night stands, there's something about Mack that he can't resist.

Fast forward to Mack knocking on his parents' door after a letter is sent from his dad, requesting he get tested to see if he matches his sister to donate his liver.

I like the stepbrothers trope, and this one was no exception. Nathan and Mack had never met before. Mack's dad hasn't been around in all the time he's been married to Nathan's mother.

Derek, Mack's father, was a shitty dad to him. He never made the effort. He never acted like a dad. Unfortunately, Nathan had the opposite from him as a stepdad. He was always supportive, always around. This could've caused **tons** of melodrama and resentment on Mack's behalf. But it didn't.

What Mack is, above all else, is wary and distrustful. After his mother died, he was raised by stoic grandparents. He's never received affection or love. Walking in on Nathan and his sister hugging causes him to look like he's seeing an alien.

The attraction, on Nathan's part, doesn't die. But Mack is just so prickly and standoffish. It's hard to crack his shell. And even after they start fooling around again, it's impossible for Nathan to tell what Mack is thinking or feeling.

Does he even like me?

Would he stay?

Mack made it clear once he came that he'd be leaving after recovering from the surgery. And Nathan does everything he can to give him a reason to stay, including **fixing** the relationship between father and son.

This book packed a lot of feelz. Not only watching Mack **flourish** under a bit of attention and affection. From his stepmother, his sister, and Nathan.

I simply love this author and will pretty much buy whatever she writes. This is another success for her, and I highly recommend!

Chris, the Dalek King says

I seem to have caught the plague so you, my lovelies, shall be gifted with yet another “omg what are words!?!?” review. You are welcome. (And apologies to Ms. Chambers, whose book deserves so much more brain power than what I currently sloshing away in my head.)

While set in Porthkennack, this book is a lot more insular than some of the others in the series. Nathan—who runs himself ragged helping out at his mom and stepfather’s ice cream shop/cafe—and Mack—who is only in

town to see if he can be a donor match to his and Nathan's kid sister—are center stage for this story. Everything is so focused on them that there is a pervasive sense of intimacy throughout the entire story. They connect on such a sweet level that first night, that you can't help but be drawn into their story. And despite the fact that they both went into it not expecting anything more than a one-night-stand, you can also tell how deeply Mack needs someone like Nathan—but probably more importantly, how badly Nathan needs someone in his life who doesn't simply take.

And yes, while I totally admit that the fact they are step-brothers totally had me excited to read this book, that really isn't something that comes into play a whole lot. Mostly because they have never met before their first night together. But where it does factor into the story it is all the more important. It isn't about titillation and taboo, but Mack desperately needing a family and Nathan wanting nothing more than to give him his.

This book was basically all heart. The connection between Nathan and Mack is probably my favorite out of this series; I am a total sucker for these kinds of hurt/comfort books...especially when I am neck deep in cold meds. And the various other relationships that evolve over the course of this book are very well done as well. Especially between Mack and his father. Very good book, very good characters, just very good everything.

4.5 stars

This book was provided free in exchange for a fair and honest review for Love Bytes. Go there to check out other reviews, author interviews, and all those awesome giveaways. Click below.

Ele says

I love storylines about one night stands that end up being the MC's boss or employee or neighbour or brother's friend or whatever.

Imagine when your one night stand ends up being your stepbrother! The stepbrother you 've never met, and who's here because he's the only matching living donor to your little sister.

I'm not going to rehash the plot. Besides, this is mostly a quiet story, character and relationship focused.

Mack and Nathan are almost polar opposites. Nathan is the one who returns to his roots willingly because he's a fixer who stays and works on things. Mack is a drifter who's used to moving around because nothing feels like home.

I think this is one of those times where the story benefited from the single POV. Mack remained an enigma until the end of the book, which kept my interest alive despite there not being too much plot or plot twists. The last couple of pages from Mack's POV were brilliant and very rewarding.

Mack's dad pissed me off more often than not. I kept waiting for him to grow a pair and stop hiding behind his selfishness and cowardice, but nope. Sadly, though, he's so very realistically portrayed. I can only say kudos to the author.

My only niggle is that the characters kept pussyfooting around and their denial to talk about their feelings

almost felt like a miscommunication, which was a little bit frustrating.

I haven't read all books in the Porthkennack series, but all the books that I *have* read have the gritty, melancholic tone in common, fueled by the rough cornish setting. I absolutely LOVE this element.

Joanna Chambers is a relatively new author to me, but some of her stories have blown my mind (like the Enlightenment series). ***Tribute Act*** is among these stories.

Recommended!

~◊~**Doxi(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~◊~** says

~4.5~

I've loved Joanna Chambers' contributions to this series. *A Gathering Storm*, the second *Porthkennack* book, is on my Best M/M Romance of 2017 list, and *Tribute Act* is also a strong contender.

While Nathan, whose POV filters the story, can't keep his eyes off Mack, the estranged stepbrother he's only just met, he's not at all sure how Mack feels about him.

Mack, who is a talented musician, is a bit of a drifter. Restless, independent to a fault, and aloof, Mack shirks touch and avoid messy emotions.

Nathan is a giver, a fixer; he likes to take care of people. He spends his inheritance and quits his London job to come home to Porthkennack and save his failing family business—an ice cream and coffee cafe. Nathan works hard, but sometimes he wishes he had someone to look after him.

Nathan's insecurities about his body (he's gained weight since moving home and has a little belly) made me love him that much more. He's real, relatable, and so damn sweet.

Mack shows up to be a live liver donor to his and Nathan's sister, Rosie, who needs a transplant to survive. Mack comes for Rosie, not for Derek, his father (Mack's step-father) who abandoned him at age 15.

Derek, a once successful pop star, is a piece of work. He's not a villain, far from it, but I wanted to shake him many times over. He's unfair to Mack and unwilling to apologize.

I like the way the story progressed. I'm a sucker for hurt-comfort, and this story has both in spades.
Mack is a wounded bird; his physical scars heal quickly, but his heart takes much longer to mend.

Mack and Nathan have amazing chemistry, and the epilogue (from Mack's POV) is just the right touch.

The only reason I'm not rounding up to five stars is that the book hopped and skipped through days and weeks. **I wanted it to slow down so I could experience all the small moments between Nathan and Mack.**

Jewel says

I love the *Porthkennack* series, and since I enjoyed this author's previous book in this series, I was hopeful that I would enjoy *Tribute Act* as well -- and I did. *Tribute Act* is about finding love in the unlikeliest places. It's about forgiveness. And it's about learning that you are worthy of being loved and capable of giving it.

Tribute Act is one of my favorite kinds of stories. A hookup with someone whom you later meet and are thrown together with. Like the step-brother you've never met. Yeah, I love that. And add in just the right amount of angst and uncertainty, and I'm hooked.

Mack...I just wanted to hug him. He was so starved for love and affection, it made my heart hurt. And I can't blame him for being so cautious. His mother died when he was young, he felt abandoned by his father, his grandparents never really accepted him, so he was on his own. Why would you risk opening yourself to people you don't know when everyone who should love you unconditionally rejected you?

And Nathan felt their connection from the start, but when you're trying to calm a stray cat, you have to exercise a lot of patience. You have to move slowly, letting the cat know you're no threat while also hoping they know you can be trusted. It's in Nathan's nature to fix things. To help anywhere he can. He left a really good job in London to come back and help his family and he wouldn't have it any other way, but they do take advantage.

I have never encountered two men who needed each other more than Mack and Nathan. Mack, the one afraid to commit, and Nathan, who never really opened himself to anything real - but really needs it.

I also really loved that Rosie, the sister Mack came to help, was really the voice of reason when it really came down to it. Hat's off to you, girlfriend, for putting everything in perspective.

Once again, Joanna Chambers delivers a wonderful story full of feels and hope amidst the angst that drew me in.

Recommended.

*ARC of **Tribute Act** was generously provided by the publisher, via NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.*

Ariana says

3,75 stars

I really loved the scenario and the main characters, right down to the single POV (which isn't usually my favourite) because it works really well here, but ultimately certain elements of the story (like Mack's relationship with his dad or Nathan tendency to 'overprotect') felt a little bit underdeveloped. I also found the end a bit too swift and quick.

But a pleasant read with lots of feels!

Ami says

3.75 stars rounded up

I admit I was a little bit nervous when Nathan and Mack's first encounter ended up in bed as a one night stand. I am not a big fan of sexy times introduced quite early in romance. Also, these days I really try NOT to re-read blurb before I start a book, in order to enjoy it in its entirety without expectation of what's coming. SO, I wasn't aware of the *stepbrother* situation coming in later. The only thing that kept me going was the fact that this was written by Joanna Chambers. She is one of my favorite authors so I believe in her stories.

Then yes, of course, it turns out that Mack is Nathan's stepbrother; he comes to Porthkennack because their sister is sick and in need of liver transplant. To keep things on track for me: Nathan's mother marries Mack's dad. Rosie is their daughter. So Rosie shares the same father with Mack, and the same mother with Nathan. But of course neither Nathan nor Mack has the same set of blood parents. That is important for me because I am also NOT a big fan of stepsibling trope *lol*

The story is written solely from Nathan's perspective. I thought it worked really well because it made me feel involved with Nathan's internal conflict. Nathan is the fixer in the family. Nathan is the one jumping to help his parents get out from financial fiasco. He handles the financial and marketing side of the business. He has the needs to make everything right. Except for helping Rosie, because he is not a match. He is the fixer ... but here comes someone else who can help his sister. Even if Mack still part of the family.

While Mack stays rather mysterious, and it fits with his character. Mack keeps people on arm's length -- he describes himself as a lone wolf. Which is understandable because after his mom died, Derek (his father, Nathan's stepfather) also left him alone, then his grandparents didn't welcome his sexuality, so Mack is pretty much alone since he was seventeen years old.

I think *Tribute Act* is quintessential Joanna Chambers. It focuses on characters growth, relationship, and PACKS a feels! Although I also think that Mack's long-time conflict with his father resolved too quickly, and a little bit off page. That's the thing that stops this book being a solid four.

Despite never knowing Mack's perspective throughout the book but I believe that piece by piece, Mack's brick wall surrounding his heart crumbles during his time staying with Nathan, knowing his sister, surrounded by love and family. Which is why that last epilogue from Mack's POV is perfection.

The ARC is provided by the publisher via Netgalley for an exchange of fair and honest review. No high rating is required for any ARC received.

Simon says

Joanna Chambers....you make me cry.

I haven't managed to get through any of your novels without weeping like the proverbial baby. I am a wreck! I'm always a tinsy bit disappointed when I begin to read one of your novels, only to discover it's set in the modern day. Then I reach the end, a blubbering wreck, and realise how stupid am I? I just love your style, your writing, your characters and regardless of the period. You write for me and I am so very grateful. In the immortal words of David Cassidy....."I think I love you".

Nathan and Mack....now there's a soul-mate coupling if ever I've read one. I so wanted to bang their heads together and yell "Just say it, just tell him how you feel!".....but then, there wouldn't be this delicious story, a true and beautiful love story, a proper m/m romance.

Cornwall is the setting for this novel and Cornwall is my second home. My partner's family originate from Mousehole and we visit every year.

Thank you Joanna for the Epilogue. I sobbed!

Most definitely five stars. True romance. Excessive happy sobbing.

Incidentally, I read this novel between 1am and 4.30am, with tea. I am now totally knackered, but couldn't/didn't want to put it down until I knew how it ended.

Fabi says

Four beautiful stars!

A simple hookup turns complicated when said hookup shows up at your parent's house. <---love that trope!

It's a poignantly beautiful love story.

Nathan is the "fixer". He fixes everyone's problems. He takes anything and everything on his own shoulders and solves whatever needs a solution. But who takes care of Nathan? Even though he's been in several relationships, he's never been in love.

Mack is the most desperately lonely character I've ever read about. My heart HURT for him. He keeps everyone at a distance, yet he is the one who sees that Nathan has needs too. He's the one to help and point out to others that Nathan deserves appreciation and a whole lot of thanks. Mack is the one who steps up to lend a hand when no one else see's Nathan's needs.

I was rooting for these two the entire time I read the story. I wanted them to find a way to connect so bad. I must have been really stressing because I felt a whole lot of relief at the HEA.

I really wanted Derek and Mack's conversation. Some sort of detailed view into their progress forward. That's the only reason why this is a four star instead of five for me. Otherwise, perfect.

Gorgeous story. I loved it.

Review ARC graciously provided by Riptide Publishing via NetGalley

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

Tribute Act was a good story. A *fine* story. But, honestly, from Joanna Chambers I expect to be blown away every time.

I've had mixed emotions about the Porthkennack series, but the one I REALLY loved was A Gathering Storm. Maybe I'm just into Joanna Chambers when she writes historicals?

I honestly don't love it when a book starts off with the two MCs jumping into bed. One of my favorite aspects of a story is the sexual tension (I *live* for it!), and so when the sex is right off the bat I always feel a little... deflated. I think that's why, even though the story was sweet and emotional and had a lot of potential, I just felt a little disconnected from it.

I always say this, but if it takes me more than 1-2 days to read a story, no matter the length, I'm just not that into it. I happily read Tribute Act but I also had no problem putting it down. That always worries me.

There was lots of loneliness, lots of angst, and lots of family issues that needed resolving, all of which got a little tiresome for me, especially with me not 100% into the romance. The writing was great, as always, but I just couldn't get past the "like" stage.

I'll always pick up Joanna Chambers' books, no matter what, but I think she's written better. I'd recommend starting with her historical romances because they are just flat-out lovely.

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