



Livingston

J.M. Dabney

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He was the Beast without the escape clause.

Francis “Liv” Livingston was a beast. No matter if he wore a perfectly tailored suit or if he was in his tactical gear, people avoided looking at him. He was always first to volunteer for the jobs only a person with a death wish wanted. Tomorrows weren’t guaranteed. His boss had come to him and told him he needed him for a job. Linus knew the jobs he liked, but when he opened the file, it all went to hell.

Beauty was only skin deep.

Fielding Haskell made his way in the world on his looks. He’d earned his first film role before he could read a script. He didn’t want the fame. He wanted to go to college. He wanted a man who didn’t look at him and see how pretty he was. Unfortunately, a so-called fan only cared how attractive he was, and it earned him a personal bodyguard and a vacation. He looked forward to the break until he met the man in charge of his safety and wondered if the danger he left was worth dealing with a sudden attraction to a man who was colder than ice.

Livingston Details

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From Reader Review Livingston for online ebook

Krishaines says

DNF 20%

I've read daddy kink books before, and liked and enjoyed them.

This didn't feel like daddy kink to me, it felt like domestic abuse, and i couldn't even keep reading, it made me want to cry for the poor kid.

At this point in the book, he has never been given choices in his life, from his parents to his agent, he doesn't know what it means to be loved or strong or independent, he doesn't even know he is allowed to eat junk food without permission, and Liv steps in and immediately starts ordering him around, calling him a natural submissive. No he isn't naturally submissive, he doesn't even know he has a choice. All he knows is this big scary looking dude who he is completely dependant on is telling him what to do and he has to listen. It wasn't a discussion of hey, do you know what daddy kink is, do you have any boundaries, are you comfortable? Do you know you're ALLOWED to say NO without having to go without food or being punished? It honestly was making me so sad for the kid.

Daddy kink is great for me when the boy knowingly enters into that kind of relationship, is strong enough on their own to make decisions but just gets turned on by a daddy. Not someone who legit doesn't know there is another option to how a relationship can work, how can he? It's all he's known. And what kills me is Livingston KNOWS this, and still treats him that way.

Lost in a Book says

3 Stars

I'm going to start this off with some warnings and information that I wish I had prior to diving in. This read is full of Daddy kink. The MCs and secondary characters are all part of the lifestyle and it's a huge element of the story. There's also a fisting scene that isn't super graphic but worth noting. There are **triggers for abuse, stalking, and mentions of prior suicide attempts.**

Still here?

Daddy kink and fisting aren't my kinks of choice but I still somewhat enjoyed this read. Both Fielding and Livingston were very likable with heartbreakingly backstories that had me cheering for them along the way.

Livingston was born into an environment where "**love came in shades of blue and black, fading to a deceptively pretty purple and a sick greenish-yellow.**" After a horrific childhood ripe with abuse and time in the military, he works for a security company. Livingston lives his life waiting, *hoping* for it to end. He's scarred from head to toe on half his body and accepts that he'll never find someone that will look past his beastly exterior.

Fielding is a 23 year old actor that has never truly lived. He's beautiful and on a very short leash with zero freedom. Fielding is starved, denied relationships, micromanaged, and has a keeper 24/7. No chocolate for two years? *gasp* #fuckthatnoise! He also has a very aggressive stalker which is how he's placed in the care of Livingston, his new bodyguard.

Both men are broken and hesitant to reach for more. They are immediately attracted to each other but Livingston has a difficult time getting past his hangups and the 15 year age gap to move on. Things obviously heat up for the men and Livingston gets his boy while trying to suss out a stalker. They have a few bumps in the road while Livingston tries to do what's *right*. Eventually they get their Daddy/boy situation resolved for a predictable HEA.

Here are my issues: I felt like I was entering a story that had already started. There was a lack of depth and shortfalls in character and plot development. Many things are rushed, especially the Daddy/boy dynamic without being fully realized. I *think* it's due to the fact that the secondary characters already had their stories told. However, this is supposed to be a standalone and the first of a new series. A little warning about reading order would go a long way for clarity. I didn't read the other books by this author and therefore can't speak on whether it would have provided the foundational depth that *Livingston* is lacking.

As I mentioned above, I was still able to find pieces to enjoy. The stalker storyline held my attention and I was invested in the outcome of Livingston and Fielding. This story isn't for the squeamish but I'd recommend it to those that have already read the previous books about the secondary characters.

skips off to eat chocolate

Copy provided for honest review.

<https://boymeetsboyreviews.blogspot.com>

Caroline Brand says

REVIEWED FOR LOVE BYTES

3.5 Stars

This is book 1 in JM Dabney's new Trenton Security series. Although a new series those familiar with this author will recognise a lot of the characters as it's a continuation of the world Dabney has built her two previous series of books around.

Francis Livingston or Liv as he is to his few precious friends comes from a torturous background and it's that very thing that starts this story off. From its bleak set up this story show us how Liv has become the man that he is today, it shows his fears, his nightmares and his loneliness. He's the member of the team who takes on

the riskiest of jobs because in all honesty he's not bothered if he comes home or not – oftentimes death seems like the better option to him.

Until he meets his latest babysitting job – a job he is none too happy to be given!

Fielding Haskell is a product of his own success, or rather his parents strict regime, and he is also their meal ticket. Since he's been able to breathe his parents have used, abused and manipulated Fielding into a career that has left him miserable whilst they live a very comfortable life off the proceeds of his hard work. He hates his job with a passion and now it seems he has picked up a stalker and it's become bad enough that he needs to be hidden away for a few months with a bodyguard in the middle of nowhere.

I liked both these characters. Liv was rough and gruff on the outside but you could almost feel his need to be loved and really seen for who he was and not for just what marked his skin. His coldness and hard attitude were there as a cover to keep his heart safe and when Fielding was literally dropped into his lap the cracks began to appear. Fielding was innocence personified and used to having no freedoms at all. Because of his innocence I felt he took to his dirty mouthed kinky side just too quickly – it didn't flow – one minute he knew nothing and the next minute he was putting on a show in the woods. I liked his tenacity when it came to wearing Liv down but I did begin to wonder toward the end if Liv would ever agree to say yes.

This was a steady start to a new series and the characters that will be coming up next are a varied bunch that will make for some interesting stories in the future.

Anja says

The story was addicting enough, I actually finished it in one go, but there were a lot of typos/grammatical errors that I just couldn't look past. Sometimes I wondered if that was just the writing style but yeah. All in all it was an okay read. And the secondary characters were really interesting, I hope they will get their own stories. Oh and apparently daddy kink isn't really my thing.

Man this book slump isn't funny anymore...

Cadiva says

You've gotta love a book with a good fisting scene in it, I'm fairly sure that's a book reviewing rule right?

Well, lucky for me, I did love this book, even though I haven't read anything else from this author. It had moments of drama that perhaps were a little over the top, but it completely worked within the narrative.

More review tomorrow.

And it's tomorrow now so here's the rest (as I was falling asleep yesterday).

I thought this book was fab, it's not an overly complicated story and its done well. There's lots of other characters in it who have their own books which I've not read but there's enough info given for the reader to know what's going on.

Liv is a wonderful character, traumatic experiences and visible scarring have left him deeply isolated with only his friends providing any human interaction.

Fielding is naive and too young and inexperienced for Liv but he wants him just the same and the beautiful actor is more than willing to surrender and submit to his Daddy.

I will say this won't be for everyone, it's quite heavy on the Daddy/boy kink and some light BDSM but it absolutely fits the dynamic of the two men.

I hope Little gets his HEA and I want to know more about Horace & Freddie and why they live out in the woods!

#ARC kindly received from the author in return for an honest and unbiased review.

Diverse says

Daddy kink isn't for everyone. I am actually just beginning to find more books in this genre with it. JM Dabney isn't new to writing this kink and I like how there are levels to it and in her books we see the differences. In Livingston, while it is Daddy Kink, that isn't the only thing going on here.

Livingston himself is dealing with monsters that fester beneath his scarred skin. A past that affects every part of his present. And a future he deems to be lonely and bleak. This is not a life any person worth a damn should be living.

Fielding is an up and coming actor who's life is controlled by his parents and anyone else who makes money off him. He's slight, fairly defenseless, and can't speak up for himself. His diet and fashion is monitored and he longs to find a man that can give him everything he needs.

A crazy stalker is what brings Fielding to Trenton Securities and Livingston's newest mission together. Of course put the twinkly adorable dude with the massive twisted up dude and naturally there will be sparks because this is all sorts of opposites attracting.

Livingston gives Fielding what he needs and in turn Fielding does that for Livingston. And while you may read this and say Fielding went from one controlling environment to another you'd be wrong. BDSM is a wildly misunderstood practice. Fielding is a submissive at heart. What his parents do is abusive to a submissive's need, What Livingston does is help him grow, love, and eventually live, without shame and with everything his has been denied.

The added suspense and action to this story was a huge plus and while I cried hearing the horrors of Livingston's past, I was overjoyed that these two MC's found what they craved their whole lives in each other.

Very enjoyable read! I recommend.

Chris says

An enjoyable read - possibly a bit short on depth as this would have built the story but nevertheless I enjoyed the characters. This spin off series still involves many of the Brawlers and Ink guys so it makes it fun to catch up with them all. I thought this book started well in unpacking Livingston's background but things just flew after that which lost just a little credibility for me. No doubt though - I'll continue to read books in this series!

Nile Princess says

3.5 I love me some Daddy kink, and while this one did have its issues I felt good about the couple at the end. Review to follow.

Jenny Wood says

This is a new series, from a spinoff of the other two series.... If you haven't read them, it should still be okay, but I ask you, why... why haven't you... they're AMAZING.... You should stop what you're doing, and go do that right now...

In this one, we have Livingston.. he's on Linus Investigations team... And they're even more messed up than even the twirled world AND Executioners crew, if that can be believed! It seems like all of her guys just keep getting more damaged as she goes on, and that holds so true with Livingston.

Livingston, like most of these guys, had a troubling past, so troubling in fact, this mother tried to kill him in the most unbelievably heartbreakin way when he was just 8 years old. And because of that, he wears the scars like a constant reminder why love is nothing but pain to him. He feels like he doesn't deserve good, because other than the giant family that is all the crews, he doesn't know any differently...

Forced to babysit a new up and coming young actor, cuz the poor kid is being stalked and threatened...he knows he's going to hate every second of it.

Fielding has no control over his life. At 22, his parents dictate literally every single second of his life. What he eats, how much he eats, when he works out, when he sleeps, literally not one second is his own. Using him for his money is about all he's good for to him, and their cash cow is being threatened, so they send him to Linus... who gives him to Liv to look over.... He also knows that Liv wont be able to resist him, and....good call, Linus, because despite everything... these two fall hard and quick.

My heart broke for both of them, Fielding because the kid thought he couldn't have anything for himself... no kind of life without his parents dictating literally everything. Liv, just didn't think she deserved anything at all.

One thing that surprised me, that I loved so much, was the way Peaches was with Liv. Now, I know she's soused to be awesome and all that, but she gets on my nerves a lot, she's a little TOO much, and even though she was still so extra, and kinda annoying, I loved everything she said to Liv, in all the ways she loved him and wouldn't let him hide from it. Go Peaches!

And of course through it all, Fielding falls for Liv, and wants him to be his daddy, and you guys... Jenny did not know that she'd be into all that, but let me tell you how much I'm learning about myself... cuz, oh-em-

gee! I like it almost as much as Liv and Fielding do, I think! It was hot... like, hot, hot! Seriously...

And then the art I didn't like, was how set Liv was on pushing and pulling and pushing and pulling. Its like, hed push and say he couldn't keep Fielding, but then he would, but hen hed tell Fielding he couldn't, but then he did. Then, when I finally thought he got his head out.... He didn't, even when Fielding begged, repeatedly. Grrrr!!!

We got there in the end though, and it was worth every second of all of it. I cannot wait to see what happens with Little, I truly hope he's next! It just keeps getting better and better.

5, amazing stars from me!

Amanda says

This is going to be short.

I think Fielding is too naive, innocent and childlike. From the first moment, he seems very subdue, which is not what I'm looking for. Even when I'm reading about D/s relationship, I prefer a submissive who is sassy, mouthy and know how to give as good as he gets.

Joyfully Jay says

A Joyfully Jay review.

2.5 stars

Livingston was something of a challenge to read and for several different reasons. The writing is fine and the story, such as it is, works on a basic level. One of the biggest issues with this novel though is that as readers we are dropped into a world that's already in progress. The author has several other series and characters from those books all seem to make an appearance here. I only know this because I did some research when it became apparent that I was supposed to know who these people were. The author makes no attempt in Livingston to explain who these people are or why they might be important. And we're not taking one or two characters here, but a dozen or more, all of them crowded onto the page and clamoring for attention. They distract from the story happening between Liv and Fielding and because they nearly all have a Daddy kink, there are far too many people talking about their Daddies. It's chaotic and confusing and it's a problem that never gets resolved.

The other big issue is that there is essentially no relationship development between Livingston and Fielding. As a character, Liv has some depth and we're given good insight into his past and why he is the way he is. But Fielding is something of a non-entity. We're told he hates his life where he's bullied and controlled by his parents. Yet he slips naturally into the role of Liv's submissive. Beyond this though he doesn't have much by way of depth. So the relationship between these two is flat and boring. And there is nothing by way of evolution when we look at their love affair. It just sort of starts between one page and the next. It isn't believable or particularly interesting. Fielding has his natural kinks, which just happen to fit Liv's, but there is no exploration of where or how they have come to this point in their lives. And it's a shame, because I

really wanted to like Liv and Fielding more than I did. I love a good bodyguard story and even more when a bit of kink is tossed into the mix. Unfortunately, Livingston failed to establish itself in any meaningful way.

Read Sue's review in its entirety here.

Maria says

Meh, ... boring. The silliest take on Daddy kink that I've read to date. No depth or understanding of the characters which would go a long way towards not turning their kink into complete ridiculousness.

Dumb fisting scene thrown in for shock value I guess. All I got out of it was an eye roll. Seriously? Do ya think a little preparation might have helped to make this scene even remotely believable?

Okay, the scars. Considering how they came to be why only one half of Liv's body and not his whole body? Doesn't make any sense.

Cast of characters all thrown in. Peaches, plums, nectarines. Crazy, Sinner, Saint, Trouble, Little, Luck. Peter, Paul, Mary, WTF ever. Jumbled and nonsensical.

Again, meh. ** 2 **

Disappointed. Time to pick up and go.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

2.5 stars

So, that didn't go as I expected.

I have to preface this by saying that a lot of stories tickle my fancy. I love male/male. I love Daddy Dom stories. I love when there's an age gap. And SWAT team/bounty hunter/security types. Check. Check. Check. And check. But all of them together? This book sort of overloaded me with too much of a good thing and missed the mark.

Livingston is a man who has existed in the shadows with a death wish. But when a job protecting up-and-coming actor Fielding Haskell arises, Livingston finds someone he wants to start living for. As they spend time alone in Liv's cabin in the woods of Georgia, and as their affection grows, I found that I liked the individual characters. Alone in the cabin was the story I enjoyed: the scarred loner who finds love in the most unlikely of places; the scary Dom who learns to love from an innocent sub. But my affection for the characters individually wasn't enough to overcome the issues I had otherwise.

First, I will admit that this was the first time I've read a Daddy Dom story with two men. I'm not sure why I

never even considered this, but as much as I love reading that type of relationship, personally it didn't work for me here. There was no questioning that although in his mid 20s, Fielding was sweet and innocent. But his portrayal was also more childlike than I was comfortable with. I guess my personal taste when I read M/m is to have a more equal footing, even if there is a power exchange.

Second, I felt as if there was too much history that I needed to have in order to truly appreciate the story. Being the first in a series, even a spin-off series, I assumed I would be ok with this being my first book by the author. However, there were too many characters and unconventional relationships for me to follow. Just because someone called another "brother" didn't mean they were related. Except when they were. Add in several people referring to their partners as "Daddies" and I was completely upside down in what was going on behind the scenes or how everyone meshed together. I'm sure if I had read the other books I would have appreciated what was going on in the secondary characters' lives, but instead I was just confused.

Finally, the premise of the town and all supporting characters was a bit much for me to believe. Where is this town that seems to have practically no women? All of the men had one or more husbands, and while intriguing, it came off as odd to me.

For fans of this author, I'm sure this will be a hit because the storyline was interesting. But too many factors here combined to make it confusing and distracting to me.

Barbara? says

Trenton Security has been hired to protect an up and coming actor, Fielding, from a stalker. Linus decides Livingston should be the one to do it. So, he takes him to his remote cabin. What he doesn't expect is that Fielding is a sweet and innocent natural submission and he checks all Livingston's boxes. But Livingston checks all Fielding's as well and he wants Livingston to be his Daddy.

J.M. Dabney is my go-to guilty pleasure. I love that her books don't take a lot of thought. There's some feelings thrown in and of course, hot sex. This one is no different. I teared up a couple of times because both Livingston and Fielding have issues and need each other. Livingston did grate on my nerves with his insistence that Fielding had to go home once the job was over and the stalker is caught.

I'm looking forward to Little's book next. He really needs someone special and I hope he gets it.

Libby says

Nah

Man this author is not for me. Daddy kinks all around. This is my first book from this author and I'm am not loving it everyone is in a daddy/boy relationship. The boys are holes for the daddies. Liv likes fielding because he's submissive, pretty and petite. Fielding likes liv because he everything he's not, ugly, large and in charge, and a daddy. There's no love, fielding is a naive untouched virgin and is new to everything "He still felt weird about calling Livingston Daddy and what that meant" he doesn't know what it means but is

persuaded into calling this guy daddy. I skimmed over the first intimate scene it was all spank, shove, choke, thrust and "you cry pretty". Don't even get me started on the second. It wasn't loving, intimate, caring or erotic. I personally am not into the daddy kink in this book because all of the boys actions and opinions are funneled through the daddy. I have read some good loving daddy/boy book but this was not it.
