



Act of Faith

Erica James

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Ali Anderson is determined to stand on her own two feet—even if it means spending Christmas alone. Because for Ali, Christmas is not the season of good cheer, but a poignant reminder of the tragedy that not long ago tore her life apart and destroyed her once-happy marriage to Elliot. But an invitation to spend the holidays at the home of her best friend will change her life in ways she never imagined.

Act of Faith Details

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Author : Erica James

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From Reader Review Act of Faith for online ebook

Kristen Golson says

Not my favourite of this author. I've read others of hers that I have enjoyed more.

Nat says

I'm still relatively new to Erica James work, having previously only read 'Paradise House' - which, by the way, was a lovely story. Act of Faith deals with the multitude of emotions caused by life situations which many of us have had to experience. The writer deals with the circumstances and emotions felt by the characters in an educated and empathetic way, and the religious aspects of the story which illustrate the disagreements, confusion and conflict which is all too common in our everyday lives felt very well researched and authentic.

This was a book which from the very beginning drew me in and I wanted changes for both female characters and hoped as the book ended this would be the case. What followed was a rollercoaster ride full of emotion and it became one of those books which I struggled to put down. At times it made me laugh out loud and at others I was holding back the odd tear. I like reading fiction by a woman for women where it is clear the author is well educated - like chick lit but with advanced vocabulary! The one very small issue I had is that it was a little drawn out in places and I'd have liked an edit which would have made for a more concise read - most especially in the second half of the book. I'm still giving it 5 stars though and am on the look out for more Erica James books as I type!

Julie says

I am dithering between giving this book 3.5 or 4 stars, but decided that it was well written, dealt with issues in a sensitive way, and I felt invested in the characters and what happened to them.

They are all strong characters in their own way and each had a very unique personality, fleshed out to make them feel real. The two main characters are lifelong friends, Ali and Sarah. Tragically, Ali's son has died and her marriage collapsed as a result of this. Sarah's marriage is governed by her faith and her husband's increasing desire to become more and more immersed in it. He and Ali do not get along and there are plenty of amusing as well as serious parts to this story.

For the normally more lightweight genre of women's fiction, this story will remain with me for quite a while.

Irina Locmele says

At first I liked this book, first 150 pages were with bit of mystery what have happened with heroes os story but the deeper it went the more obvious it was that all story is wrapped in 100 layers of papers and at the end I got bored t unwrap them to find quite obvious and not surprising details. Almost everyone know at least one person having life like in this novel, but you just call it life. You do not learn nothing from it, you do not inspire and at the end of the day, putting your head on the pillow you do not spend 3 minutes thinking about

the story and how it has changed you cos it didnt.

Jennifer says

I have to say, I didn't enjoy this one quite as much as the others that I have read by Erica James. I did up to a certain point until the main character did something so unspeakably stupid and hurtful that it felt like I was part of the story and was a character who was part of the consequence of this stupid act. The again, that is part of the skill of Erica James' writing, she always draws you in so you are completely involved with the story.

Soumanta Das says

This was my first encounter with a novel that demanded a certain level of emotional maturity,at-least regarding close family relations. Henceforth, majority readers might not completely feel the same way I do about this novel.

I must,however,appreciate Erica James' attempt to illustrate how an act fueled by over-confident impetuosity can lead to permanent damages. The simple prose,and the lucid yet meaningful conversations are an definite attraction. And if you are looking for a serious,unexpected,completely out-of-the-blue dramatic twist,you may certainly consider picking up a copy. Although a few parts may come across as excessive/superfluous build-up, the author manages to make the characters confront the worst of grief,insensitivity and blunt audacity and the best of fortitude,patience friendship and forgiveness.

Naomi says

Ali has lost her son, which led to her and her husband getting divorced. Despite her grief she still tries to rescue her best friend, Sarah, from her miserable marriage with Trevor.

This book was ok- when I got into it I enjoyed it but I always found it difficult to pick up and read. It was a bit boring in places.

The Cats Mother says

Middling english chook-lit set in a Cheshire village. Sarah and Ali have been friends since school. Ali has a successful career but lost her marriage when her son died as a toddler and can't get past her grief which makes her a complete cow. Sarah is married to an odious heavily religious idiot she married at Uni because she got pregnant and is a complete doormat. Not much happens until Ali decides to try and get Sarah out of her marriage by doing something incredibly stupid and arrogant - which made me want to stop reading it was so cringe-worthy.

She writes well and you want to know how things turn out (exactly as you predict they will) but I would only read this if you really like the author or the genre.

Ciiku says

It could have been shorter.... I felt like it dragged on forever! But it was an ok read

Marion says

Boring, boring, boring. I read the first 150 pages then skimmed the rest of the book. You could easily read the first few chapters and the last few and still understand the story line. Too many words and not enough dialogue. Not my favourite writing style.

Liz says

I thought the plot idea was very good and whilst some aspects of the story were predictable there were others that came as a surprise. Lots of description and some repetitive scenes meant this book did drag on and I was relieved to finish it!

Donnavinyard says

Ok, very predictable.

Sue says

The main character is Ali, a young, motivated and successful accountant who was very happily married until a terrible tragedy happened a couple of years before the novel opens; we learn what it was in the first chapter, although details are not filled in until later in the book.

Erica James has quite a gift of characterisation, and despite quite a big cast, it was easy for me to keep track. Sam, Ali's father-in-law, is particularly likeable person; a voice of common sense and wisdom.

It's a character-based novel, and as such there are lots of different subplots, including a low-key teenage romance, stresses with an overly-religious and somewhat self-righteous man, and some workplace issues. But most of all the story is about Ali, and the way she slowly tries to come to terms with what's happened in the past. She's a complex and interesting character, with plenty of self-confidence.

If I have a criticism of the novel, it's that it's rather too long with more introspection than necessary. I felt it could have done with some significant editing in places. I had forgotten just how big a part religion plays in this novel, too; it's a pity that Trevor and his cronies are portrayed so negatively; but there's a more balanced viewpoint from one of Ali's neighbours.

Overall, though, the writing is good, the people believable, the situations and subplots cleverly woven together into an enjoyable whole. Ideal for anyone who likes thoughtful women's fiction with some emotional depth. Re-reading after fifteen years, I had almost entirely forgotten the story and found it very moving in places.

I'd give it four and a half stars if I could.

Pauline says

I spent 3/4 of this book disliking Ali tremendously - even taking into account the loss of her child. She is an abrasive character to say the least. My favorite characters were Elliot, Daniel and Sam. I didn't feel Ali deserved the love of any of these people. It was a hard book for me to love although I enjoy most of E.James books, this wasn't a favourite of mine.

Lynda says

This was a book reading over lots of emotions..how a toddlers death can break up a marriage. Then how long friendships can lead to you wanting to help that person change their life for the better.

I was not at all taken in by the main person in this story..she was very sure of her self..a bit too sure!

How the best friend and ex husband put up with her was a mystery?
Sad in places but unbelievable in others.
