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Being Jamie Baker (Jamie Baker Trilogy Book One)



Synopsis

"Most superhero stories start with a meteor shower or a nasty insect bite, but mine actually starts with a kiss." In book one of the Jamie Baker series, popular teen romance author Kelly Oram creates an electrifying superhero origin story with a lovable twist. An accident that should end in tragedy instead gives seventeen-year-old Jamie Baker a slew of uncontrollable superhuman abilities. To keep her secret safe Jamie socially exiles herself, earning the title of Rocklin High's resident ice queen. But during a supercharged encounter with star quarterback Ryan Miller she literally kisses anonymity goodbye. Now the annoyingly irresistible Ryan will stop at nothing to melt the heart of the ice queen and find out what makes her so special. Unfortunately, Ryan is not the only person on to her secret. Will Jamie learn to contain her unstable powers before being discovered by the media or turned into a government lab rat? More importantly, can she throw Ryan Miller off her trail before falling in love with him? This action-packed, coming of age romance will have you laughing, crying, and falling in love, and will give you a new appreciation for superhero stories! Being Jamie Baker was an Breakthrough Novel Award semi-finalist in 2010 and is now available for free! The series will be complete summer 2016 with the release of Remember Jamie Baker (Jamie Baker trilogy book three)!

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Customer Reviews

CONTAINS SPOILERS - READ WITH CAUTION!

What I liked:

1. I'm glad that I gave Kelly Oram a second chance after terrible, TERRIBLE "Serial Hottie". It was refreshing.
2. The Parents. Ok, they had some weaker points (like not being able to make up their minds "do we want our daughter to have friends and go out or not??") they were pretty much ok.
3. Ryan. Ok, ok, he can get a bit annoying at times, but let's be honest, he's not brooding, dark, mysterious guy with anger management issues and stalking problem. High five to that.
4. Jamie. She's likable enough, loner type. But hey, she has all those powers she can't control, so I don't blame her.
5. I kinda liked the Jamie/Ryan relationship. Thank heavens for no love triangle.

What I didn't like:

1. Ryan. Yes, yes, I know, I just wrote about him in the "I liked" part. But hey, don't you think he gets a bit annoying at times? With those puppy eyes and "you can't resist me" attitude? Thank God, he hasn't cross the creepy line.
2. Jamie. Too. Much. Teen. Angst.
3. The dead boyfriend, who turned out to be creepy rapist. Seriously? Ok Jamie, I get it that you feel bad for killing a human being, I totally get that. After all, you're not a killer. You're a good person. But this guy raped you, and his friends made your life a living hell. That should kinda lessen the feeling of guilt.
4. The date rape thing. That infuriated me. What this book tells is basically that if you got raped by the popular guy at school you should not speak up, just act like nothing happened. Or even better, just hang out with him, because that's a nice thing to do. Really, Kelly Oram? REALLY? And you, Jamie, you think that roughing him up a bit will make him stop? What are you? 12? Poor naive girl. I think it's disgusting that this Mike dude was left with taking no responsibility for his actions whatsoever. Yes, I know, that those things happen like that in real life, but hey, it's just wrong.
5. Carter The Villain and the Teacher what-was-his-name The Villain. Guys, The International League of Villains has just rescinded your membership. You're pathetic and a disgrace. Every villain there is is ashamed of you. You had the right amount of potential and you've wasted it. Din honour on you.

Overall this book wasn't as bad. Kelly is a skilled writer and her books are easily to read. I won't read the second part for sure.

Kelly Oram is a good writer! There was a nice and easy flow to this book and I easily devoured it in a matter of days. Jamie is a relatable character who's easy to connect with, although she could get just a bit angsty, and there were maybe a few too many nerdy references that felt like they were forced in for my liking (but what can you expect from a story where a girl has literal superhero

powers, I suppose.) The story itself didn't appear to have any holes (to me, at least) and it all tied together and just worked as a whole. I absolutely hated Jamie's love interest. I liked that he helped her and that he was able to bring her out of her shell, but he was way too pushy at times, and every time Jamie gave in to his puppy dog eyes or whatever, I just wanted to pull my hair out. Not to mention, he hears what his "friends" have to say about Jamie every single day, but he gets mad at HER for not giving them a chance?? He basically guilts Jamie into being nice to the people who are making her life a living hell, and it isn't until Jamie is finally at her breaking point that he stops and thinks, "oh wait, my friends are kind of jerks, aren't they?" It was incredibly frustrating to have to watch Jamie put up with them just because she wanted to make Ryan happy. I also didn't care too much for Jamie's parents, who couldn't seem to make up their minds about how they wanted Jamie to live her life. Her mother was a bit more consistent (albeit, somewhat annoying), but her father was all over the place at times. And though Jamie was mostly likable, there were moments when she made decisions that just made me roll my eyes. All in all, this was a decent book, and like I said, I really enjoyed Kelly Oram's writing skills, but the story left me feeling like something was missing.

I'm a sucker for superheroes, and that's what drew me in (that, and it was free.) I think what compelled me most were the electricity motifs on the cover and in the blurb--a superhero with electricity-based powers would be really interesting to read about. But when I start reading a book that's labeled "superheroes," what I want is superheroes, not teen stereotypes, angst, and annoying, unrealistic high-school romance. Which is pretty much all I got in this one. For example, here's a brief summary of the first portion of the book (potential spoilers ahead): Jamie: I can never be happy or have friends or get close to other people because I'm so dangerous and no one can ever know what I am. Popular guys: Jamie's so hot. It's too bad she's such an ice queen. (Note: This phrase is used approximately ten thousand times throughout the book.) Popular girls: Ugh, why is everyone all over Jamie? I don't care how hot she is, she's a freak. (Seriously, can the mean girls never think of anything more creative than "freak" to call protagonists with powers?) Ryan: Why are you so hot and mysterious, Jamie??? And then of the second part, after she finally gives in and gets together with Ryan: Ryan: You're my girlfriend, Jamie. Jamie: Ugh, no. You don't understand. I am NOT your girlfriend. What we have is strictly platonic. I can't let the same thing happen to you that happened to Derek. Jamie's thoughts: Ugh, he's just so cute and likable. I hate that. (The girl's a veritable Grumpy Cat.) And

here!™s what happens every time she uses her powers: Ryan: That was awesome! Jamie: No! I™m a freak! I could have killed you! We can™t keep doing this! And that™s basically the whole plot. Seriously. Electricity superpowers? Cool, but the only thing they really do for Jamie are making the power go off occasionally and turning her into a sulky angst monster. Seriously, nothing happens in this book, except for the bits with Carter. It™s mostly just about Jamie and Ryan™s angst levels fluctuating. She loves him, then she decides she™s too dangerous for him, and then back again. They™re stuck in that state of "We can't keep doing this, but I gotta have you" for pretty much the whole time. And the plot and the bad writing aren't the only things. I didn't find Jamie to be a likable character at all. She™s all angst and no self-esteem. She claims she™s really quite vulnerable, but it™s only shown in stilted and overdramatic ways™she™ll be completely snappish and cold until suddenly she breaks down crying over something. She has a very annoying "I HAVE TO STAY AWAY FROM YOU TO PROTECT YOU" thing going on, which gets old fast. And has anyone else noticed that she doesn't actually have any hobbies or interests (besides general angst)? Her love of books is referenced several times, but we never really see her reading, except in class. Meanwhile, on the other side of the coin, her love interest Ryan is rather bland. At least he has more initiative and optimism than Jamie does. Pretty much all the girls in the school were uniform--in their snootiness, in their girly-girlishness, in their worship of the popular boys, and in their automatic dislike of Jamie. (SPOILER ALERT) The only character I actually found myself liking (at least a little bit) was her teacher Mr. Edwards, who seemed like a sensible, kind, and actually helpful adult. So, naturally, he turned out to be the villain. Ugh. Plus, there's a bunch of smaller annoying things, such as:- Various superheroes are name-dropped throughout the book, probably in an attempt to establish geek cred. This makes me slightly angry because it fails so miserably. Jamie has virtually nothing in common with any of said superheroes (except for the fact that they have powers), and this book offers virtually nothing for geeks.- There is a reporter named Carter. He is stalking Jamie, for increasingly confusing reasons. I'm still not entirely sure why he's there.- Jamie routinely uses her super speed to zip off to places like the Grand Canyon and Mount Rushmore. The author is probably trying to add interest to the scenery while showing off Jamie's powers. To me, though, it was just plain gimmicky and not at all believable. I'll end with just one simple question, not just about this but about the genre as a whole: Why can't YA heroines ever have any fun? They™re always angsty. They consider themselves losers (and so does everybody else.) All they do is hole themselves up in their rooms and bury themselves in their angsty thoughts, except when they are with/thinking about their perfect boyfriends. I™m

pretty sure authors do this because they feel it's more relatable, but even introverts have fun sometimes (and in ways that don't involve boys), and the 100% angst teenage heroine trope is wearing rather thin. Just once, I'd love to read about a YA heroine who actually enjoys her life AND doesn't have to think about boys all the time. Please, just a little bit?

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