



## Something Like Autumn

*Jay Bell*

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*Love can appear unexpectedly: a chance meeting at a friend's wedding, the arrival of a handsome new co-worker... or while being robbed at a convenience store.*

For some, love seems an impossible dream. Growing up gay in small-town Missouri, Jace Holden thought his chance would never come. When he meets Victor—a wild soul and fellow outsider—his chances of finding love go from bleak to a very uncertain *maybe*. Bracing his heart, Jace chases after his desire, hoping for a warm hand to hold his tight.

*Something Like Autumn* tells the story of Jace's life before the events of *Something Like Summer*, while also revisiting his time with Benjamin Bentley.

## Something Like Autumn Details

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Author : Jay Bell

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## From Reader Review Something Like Autumn for online ebook

### Will Lutes says

Sidebar before the review: After reading this book in two sittings, I can say I am completely hooked - not only on the cast of characters in this series (which are immediately memorable, but also each in his own way, friends you can wait to catch up with - a credit to the author's loving touch), but also in how each pulls you in - not by dragging you into it, but by careful peeling away of themselves until you are left with their core. That the author included a personal note at the end to underscore one of the prominent theme's in the book cemented Jay Bell as a go-to author who I could implicitly trust with whatever he chooses to share with his readers. A trust that, while publicly shared, seemed immediately private and a very open way to connect with his audience. A trust that, for me, I think is as unbroken as the love between Jace and Ben. - This is a fanboy for life.).

Now onto the work itself:

First off, I was thrilled beyond belief that Jay chose to give Jace his own story. I was connected to this character, his nobility (so refreshing from the over the top crowd of sex starved twinks, daddies and whores in the making of so many in the genre - not that I am judging that to be bad, but Jace is in a class by himself) and the careful wisdom from the first time he entered in '...Summer.' From his entrance in that story, with subsequent fleshing out in '...Winter,' I was clamoring for more from him. I am glad to say that Bell didn't disappoint in the least.

Jace's tale was well worth the wait. From the onset I could connect with how he saw his world, how fiercely he defined love and what he would do to hold onto it. [Small spoiler ahead]: That Jace had to learn love from a complicated character like Victor, who ultimately couldn't deal with how much love Jace had for him, was bittersweet as it was emboldening to cheer him onto other things in life. Small sidebar; I gotta say that Greg and Michelle were my favorite minor characters, Michelle for a mouth that could give my own sister a run for her money, and Greg because dammit, every straight guy should have a gay pal they can connect with - I think it made Greg far stronger in the long run as a heterosexual male.

It was lovely to have Jace's thoughts to the part of the story where the trio's lives intersected. Again, under Jay's brilliant hand, he only deepened our understanding of these beloved characters, which made the inevitable conclusion that much more satisfying when it came. I am happy for Ben that he found someone like Jace with which to balance Tim out in the long run. I loved that for Jace, in the end, he left us with the firm knowledge that he didn't pass alone, unloved and unneeded. His sacrifice to leave on top with Ben was heart wrenchingly played out and deeply moving. Made me love his character even more. A brilliant, brilliant addition to the series.

So all in all, my advice is: if you love this series (and who the hell wouldn't - what's not there to love?) buy it now, don't wait, I woulda finished this in ONE sitting if I didn't have my day job to worry about. A ravenous read for me. If you are a fan, this one will not disappoint in the slightest.

Now I am left with two main questions:

1) I want to know how Jace's death affected Greg and Michelle - I mean, I am well aware how close they were and how things like this hit them, but a little part of me was selfish enough to know that Greg and Michelle were able to process and move forward. Did they still keep in contact with Ben after? Or did that

fade with time?

and the bigger question is...

2) What the hell could be in store for 'Something Like Spring?' I haven't a clue where he'll go with that one. I love a good mystery but dammit, now that I am done with the series thus far it'll be rolling around in the back of my head trying to suss it out. But that's a very good thing (apologies to Martha Stewart).

While I loved the two prior books, I have to say Jace's story is my favorite of the series thus far ( and I am not saying that because it is the newest in the series - it is because one of my absolute favorite characters came to the fore and opened his heart to us. I was the richer for it).

Thanks Jay! Can't wait til it's Spring...

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### **Jerry says**

I did not have a strong desire to read this book. It is the third in the author's series about the same characters. I thought, what more does he have to say? This book turned my head around. I loved it more than the first two.

Jace was so real to me. My heart bled for him thru all his life altering situations. Loved Greg, especially because he remained true all through Jace's life and its nice to have a heterosexual friend who is truly your best friend. Victor was kind of an enigma. I wanted to love him and wanted he and Jace to work out but had issues with his inability to commit. Ben was good, but different when seen from Jace's perspective and Tim was an unbelievable jerk. I had problems with him in both Summer and Winter.

The ending, even though you know what happens was still gut wrenching, noble, touching and loving all at the same time. Somehow thru the sadness I was able to get closure on Jace and Ben and cherish what they had together. It makes me want to race home to my husband, cherish him and never take him for granted. Autumn is so well written into the fabric created in Summer and Winter that I am forced to go back and re read them immediately.

Well done Jay!

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### **Kyle says**

Not sure why but I just cannot get into this books. I've had a lot of friends recommend them but despite my best efforts I just could not get into the story. I don't know if this the time period, the characters or the writing style but it felt like it took me forever to get this far.

Whatever you do though, don't let this stop you from giving the books a try on your own.

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### **Chris Horsefield says**

It's been two days since I finished it and it still makes me tear up. I already loved the character Jace from the earlier books in the series, and was sad about how his story turned out, but now I love him even more. Even though I knew the basic story from Something like Summer, I couldn't wait to get to the part with Ben just to

experience the story from Jace's perspective.

Jay Bell -- You have a talent! Thank you for such a wonderful series

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### **Fangtasia says**

Having read the first two books in the Seasons series, I knew going in how this one was going to end. What I *didn't* know was that my heart would be shredded, minced, mutilated, and stomped on before the painful end arrived.

Now I better understand why Jace reacted the way he did to Ben and Tim's shenanigans. When first reading through those situations, I'd ascribed his behavior to being older than the other guys, more experienced and mature. Still, it made Jace feel like a paper figure for me, lacking in feelings and passion, that he was so understanding of a situation which hurt him so badly.

But after reading SLA, and meeting Victor, I truly grasped who Jace *really* is. And I love him all the more for it. Which is why the ending just about killed me. If I cried reading SLS, this one had me almost dehydrated. I had to take several breaks, and remind myself that these were **fictional** characters and events, before I could continue reading. Quite a dilemma, since I just couldn't put it down for long, wanting to know what happened next.

The supporting characters are brilliant. Michelle and Greg deserve their own story. I'd read it! And let's not forget Samson. It's a recurring theme in this series, but a marvelous one at that, because animals can be the perfect therapy. They are the best companions when one needs unconditional love, without judgement or arguments.

Mr. Bell did something few authors have ever done. The third book in this series is better, way better, than the first and second. Bravo! And thank you for the gift of getting to know Jace. It is a privilege I will always cherish.

Before ending this review, though, I feel it necessary to provide a spoilerish warning. Your choice, to read it, or not. (view spoiler)

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### **Albert says**

Wow. With tears in my eyes I read the last three words and finished this book. The tears surprised me, because I did read the previous two books by Jay Bell (Something like Summer/Winter) and these book already tell you how this book ends.

I have to be honest. When I first read on Jay's website he was writing a book on Jace, I was not too enthusiastic. While reading Something like Summer, Jace was the least interesting character. I even disliked this character. He was too perfect and too nice. Well, from the first book's perspective this was the impression I got. Also, he came between Ben and Tim, for which I disliked the character.

Boy was I wrong. Something like Autumn is my favorite from the current series and I find Jace the most interesting character. The book is nicely built up. The introduction to Victor is wonderful. The contrast

between the characters, Jace's search for love and Samson the cat of course.

Jay, you wrote a wonderful book! I cannot wait till Spring time! ;)

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### **Mercedes says**

Let it be known from the beginning that I am Team Jace. Yes, after reading Something Like Summer I was left very upset because of what I felt was an unfair ending to his story. So I was looking forward to reading his story even though the ending was somewhat spoiled. I wanted to know what made Jace the man that he became.

In short Jace's life story is one full of the search of love and commitment. His story starts with Jace deciding to take his life because he is afraid of ending up alone and unloved; this was his greatest fear. Luckily his suicide attempt ends up being just that and he is able to move on. Soon after, Jace meets Victor who becomes his first love. But Victor's vision of love and relationships is nothing like Jace's. Jace is bent on love and commitment but Victor is a carefree character that is cause for a lot of joy and pain for Jace. However, Victor teaches him two important lessons that later define Jace: Love is unconditional and it doesn't stop unless you let it stop. He also learns that commitment is nothing without a promise that is honored throughout time.

When Jace is with Ben these two lessons help him deal with Ben's relationship with Tim. Jace understands what Ben is going through because he himself still loves Victor. So he is willing to forgive what happens between Ben and Tim because he can finally see that despite it all their love is for each other is still intact. Then after they get married Ben once again honors his promise to love Jace above all and pushed Tim away one last time.

Even though half way through the book I was still feeling Jace got less than what he deserved in life, as the inevitable nears I can help but finally understand that Jace actually got everything he wished for in life and I was able to shed tears of happiness for him because what was happening was happening on the terms he always wished for.

Anyway, by far this is my favorite book of these series. And although I own Something Like Winter I have not been able to read it yet, as I am not sure I want to get to know Tim better. But reading Jace's story's has actually given me closure and I look forward to the final chapter Something Like Spring.

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### **Xia Xia Lake says**

Man.....

What a lovely book.

Three months ago I've read Something like Summer and ended up with a raging fury and a broken heart. Now, Jace's life story and POV for the events from Something like Summer were like a balm.

If I were to compare the two books, Something like Summer was like a storm, while Something like Autumn was like a single violin playing in the moonlight.

Just like Jace's personality.  
And the song I kept hearing was Kreutzer's Violin Sonata No 9.

He was always my favorite. #TeamJace

*Forever.*

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### **John Ames says**

If you ever have to read a novel before you die, it will be this precious little gem here. Something Like Autumn is the story of Jace Holden before the events of Something Like Summer. And let me tell you that I fell in love with him in that novel, but now, I'm completely and madly in love with him with this one.

Jace Holden had it all. He was good looking, had loving parents, the perfect sister and a cool down-to-earth best friend. What was missing from his life? Somebody to love. There was a part of him that believed that he would never find the love of his life since gay people were not allowed to live happily ever after. Little did he know.

After a failed suicide attempt, he meets Victor, the first love of his life. Now, I didn't like Victor at first. He seemed so care free and didn't have his head glued on properly to his shoulders, but I completely saw why he was so important in Jace's life. He taught Jace several valuable lessons that turned him into the man we see in Something Like Summer. His role was very significant and I fell for him towards the end, but I also knew, he had to go.

I don't want to give the plot away, but I must tell you that there were several teary moments in this book. And at the end, I stopped myself and cried. This is one of the only three novels that have ever made me cry. This novel is just so sad, yet I couldn't stop myself from reading. Each page is page jerker that leaves you wanting more. By the end of this novel, this novel had become one of my favorite novels of all time. Jace Holden was a remarkable man and as Allison said...a saint.

I cannot recommend this novel enough. Yes, it's very sad and lengthy, but trust me, it's worth the read. Getting to know Jace and who he was before the events of Something Like Summer, was a remarkable experience. A job well-done Mr. Jay Bell! You are truly one of the best story tellers of all times. I beg you; please bring Jace back in Something Like Spring. I know you can't, but I had to try. Team Jace Forever and Always!

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### **? Todd says**

Okay, I'll admit it. I was an asshole. When I first read book 1, 'Something Like Summer', I really loathed the restrained, two-dimensional Jace in that book. Ben was supposed to be with Tim. Period.

Then I read book 3, 'Something About Autumn', and felt like a complete dick. This book takes you through all of Jace's backstory and was truly a journey, not simply another story.

The trilogy definitely challenges your emotions to come to terms with three amazing main characters, two deeply in love with the third, trying to discover themselves and love. And with math like that, there isn't always a happily ever after. At least not when they (or the reader) would like it.

I highly recommend all 3 books.

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### **Lena♥Ribka says**

#### **3,5 stars. And I'm very generous.**

I loved this book up to 60%. And then I stopped to love it.

There are probably several things that went wrong for us, I mean me and the book.

- ◆ I have read recently *Memorizing You* by Dan Skinner and *Superhero* by Eli Easton that I **LOVED A LOT**. It won't be that easily to find a YA-book that can impress me as much as these both books.
- ◆ I don't know HOW important was for the plot to know the previous sequels. I've read that it could be read as a stand alone. I didn't have an impression I was missing something, not at all, but maybe it was important to feel more connected to the main characters.
- ◆ I've read a spoiler that was very important for the story BEFORE I was through the middle of the book. It was my fault but it ruined a surprise moment for me.
- ◆ (view spoiler)
  
- ◆ The book was hard to put down, I wanted to know what would happen next, but it was more like the soap opera that you have watched long enough to keep your attention on it but that was not powerful enough to fall **BADLY** in love with it.

If you enjoy YA-Genre and first of all MM-YA-Genre I would recommend this book.

It could be your book of the year.

I can easily imagine it.

You should just give it a chance.

And I'd like to read more of Jay Bell.

That is for sure.

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## **Stephen says**

Just finished this and can't imagine where the fourth book in the series will take us.

This trio of books deals with many of the same events as told by three participants in this wonderful story. The first written was centered on Ben, a happy go lucky, out gay Texas boy that we meet just before his junior year of high school. He meets and falls for Tim, a young man who's just moved to the area from Kansas. While Ben's parents are loving and supportive of their son, Tim's are distant and self involved and Tim is struggling with his sexuality and is firmly in the closet both to his parents and even to himself.

While the second book is from Tim's point of view, both involve a third character, Jace who is slightly older and hails from Missouri. Jace becomes Ben's boyfriend at a point when Tim and Ben are on the outs and though Jace seems to be loving and understanding and in many ways "too good to be true", Ben is conflicted and, as in all romantic triangles, someone is going to get the short end of the stick.

What makes this especially difficult is that all three of the guys and many of their friends and family are all people that you grow to know and to truly like. In fact one of the great aspects of these books is that by the end you find that you empathize with pretty much all of the characters and that you enjoy spending time with all of them.

In this, the third book Jace finally gets the back-story that he so richly deserves and we finally get to see the events that shaped him into the great guy that we've met in earlier books. And while this book is perhaps at times the saddest of the three, it is also the richest and possibly the most rewarding.

As an aspiring writer I'd like to have seen a bit more foreshadowing in the first book so as to have avoided entirely the feeling of a "too convenient" plot twist and we do see some of that in this third installment. However art, like life, is not without its blemishes and if one can learn to accept these, one can have a much happier time of it.

By all means this is a trilogy that reader's of m/m romance fiction should read but this is much more than that. The three different viewpoints and the span of time make it a more poignant and a wiser story.

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## **Sara says**

### **Rating 3.5 stars rounded up**

**Question:** How do you go into a book basically knowing how it will end? Knowing the fate of the MC...I still don't know. I have no idea what wild hair crawled up my behind to message my girlfriend and say "Hey! Wanna read Autumn with me?" WTF was I thinking? See, I knew this would be a tough read, I know how it all ends and I really did not want to deal with it, not at all but I had to. But, here is the thing; when I first met Jace in Something like Summer I liked him but I didn't really connect with him. He was this too good to be true character, this almost too perfect example of a man who came into Ben's life and while I liked him and accepted him with Ben, Ben was meant for Tim and it was all about them for me. Jace was important but honestly, I never felt much for him. Yeah, I know. Beat me later for that okay?

So...I am numb. Completely numb and yet at the same time pissed off. Why can't I connect with Jace? What

it about him that leaves me just feeling meh about him? I mean, he is this fantastic and beautiful character and yet in his own book I still couldn't grab that connection with him. Going over my review for Summer I realize I never mentioned Jace once. Why? Because he wasn't meant for Ben, Tim was and that is all I could see. But I did connect with Victor in this and I found the first half of this story beautifully painful to read. It was amazing to see Jace as a teenager and his relationship with his family to when he meets Victor. Oh Victor, what a character you are. I have a thing for the damaged boys and who could be more damaged than Victor? He has his closet full of shame and guilt and yet he tries to so hard to be this free man. To sleep where he wants, do what he wants, think how he wants and love who he wants. I loved the life lessons that he taught Jace just being with him. It was obvious from the beginning that Jace learned how to be man from Victor. The speech he gives Ben in Summer after the water park was SO Victor. I loved how he touched Ben's life and gave him so much with just being himself in all his open and yes at times odd ways. I adored this about him but at the same time it scared the shit out of me. See, I know how this story ends, well Jace's story anyway so I knew that something would have to happen to Victor because he wasn't mentioned in Something Like Summer...did I mention Jay Bell is a sadist? Ugh. The first half of this book I was a complete mess. I lost it numerous times and then that one time? That one time I had to leave my office to go sob in the bathroom. Sobbing until my body shook and there was some sort of wounded animal sound coming from me. I could not believe that happened at all.

So, when we finally get to Jace and Ben, I found myself wanting to just get it over with. I knew the story and sure there were a few things new that I got but I wasn't as emotional with the second half. There is some good in that but I wanted to see a flaw in Jace and I couldn't find one. Even when he was with Adrien and he went back home, he was so noble and while that is a wonderful trait it made me NOT be able to connect with Jace. Even the beginning of the book, he was so redeemable so quick that...argh. I just don't know. I feel like I am missing something when it comes to Jace. What is wrong with me? I cannot figure this out even after hashing it out with a friend. I feel like I am the asshole for not connecting with Jace, for not tearing up at the end of his story like I actually did in Summer. But in Summer, I cried more for Ben...Oh Em Gee I am an awful human being aren't I?

Now in Summer; I never felt the age difference was a big thing between Ben and Jace. I loved how Ben saw Jace and though yes he was older, they seemed compatible and on the same level. But the way Jace sees Ben? It made Ben go from this strong character that I love to this silly immature little college boy. I never felt the love for Ben or even half the emotion he had for Victor in their relationship. I wanted it so much because I know what Jace's greatest fear is and I know that does not happen. I know how this ends! Maybe that is the reason I couldn't get into the second half of this? But no, it can't be that, I knew how Winter would end and I sobbed my ass off reading that book falling for Tim all over again and waiting for him to be back with Ben. WHY can't I feel with Jace?

Ugh.

All that aside, I do love the way Jay Bell tells a story. The way he can tell basically the same story from different perspectives and not give an exact retelling or just switching the names out is brilliant. The way you get secrets revealed that you wondered about, the knowledge where beloved cats come from or what was happening during times you never thought of are amazing. The man can write his ass off and I will always admire that. This, though it tore my heart out in the first half, didn't give me the same feelings that Summer and Winter did with the whole book. Will that stop me from reading Spring? Of course not. I will just give it some time like I did with the other seasons before I go there again.

Oh and last thought on the cover...if this is Jace's book why is he not the more prominent figure on the cover like Tim and Ben were on theirs? Just my brain throwing out more things I don't understand.

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## Breann says

### Audiobook reread 12/29/15

OMGAWWWWWWWWWDDDD. Why did I just do that to myself?

But I'm pretty sure I'll do it again, in the future.

It's just too good.

\*\*\*\*\*

The truth is out. Jace is not, in fact, perfect. Close, but not quite.

Jace was a confused teenager, he couldn't see a happy ending for himself being gay. There was no role model for him and nothing to set a precedent that gay men could have happy and fulfilling lives. Luckily, that changed with the meeting of Victor.

Oh, Victor. How I wanted to hate him for what he did. But I couldn't. In fact, I *really* loved him. I mostly *wanted* to hate him because Jace belonged with BEN, not some weird homeless-ish guy. Kind of the way I felt about Jace in Summer, Ben was meant for TIM. But he wasn't really, maybe nobody is meant for anyone. Maybe it all depends on where we are and who we are at the time. Gah, now I sound like Victor.

Victor was...odd, to say the least. But he was very insightful, especially on his thoughts about love. Does one mistake or kiss change how you feel about someone? Should we limit ourselves to labels and titles when it doesn't change how we feel? Who knows, I guess that's for everyone to decide for themselves. But because of his 'carefree' nature Victor could never completely belong to Jace. I really wanted for Victor to grow up and just be there for Jace. I wanted for them to have a future. Even though I *knew* that wasn't going to happen. Jace loved Victor... really loved him. Unfortunately Victor is not a forever sort of guy. Jace wanted it all, the marriage, the family, commitment, to be loved forever, and Victor was not the guy to give him everything he needed.

Then he found Ben. In Summer it looked as though Jace was everything Ben needed in his life. Jace was the one who saved Ben. But Jace needed saving just as much as Ben did. They were perfect for each other. So, yeah, Jace forgave Ben for his mistakes. Not because he's all forgiving but because he still loved Victor just as much as Ben loved Tim. He knew how he would feel seeing Victor again and he can't blame Ben for succumbing to those feelings -- as long as it doesn't happen again, of course.

Ben and Jace both loved two men in their lives. Neither stopped loving their first, nor did they stop loving each other. Tim and Victor were a very real presence Ben and Jace's lives and their marriage, though it never diminished or belittled their love and commitment to each other. Maybe it's not about "The One" but the one you choose to share your life with.

So, in the end, Jace got everything he wanted in life with Ben. He got the marriage, the family, and the commitment. He found someone to love him forever.

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## C says

In Something Like Summer, I didn't really warm to Jace like most readers did. I felt like he was just too perfect. He put up with so much from Ben and just kept smiling.

But after reading Something Like Autumn and finding out who Jace **REALLY** was, I pretty much love him with the passion of the white-hot sun. His first love, Victor, his parents and Bernie, his best friend Greg, and his amazing sister Michelle gave him so much more depth than was seen from Ben or Tim's POV. I wish more of his story had been incorporated into SLS, but am thrilled to know it now and for my next re-read.

(view spoiler)

Another wonderful book by Jay Bell that absolutely cements him into my favorite author short list.

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