



Second Chances

T.A. Webb

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Mark Jennings is at a crossroads. His finance job in the Atlanta nonprofit scene stresses him out, his mother is dying, and his relationship with Brian Jacobs has crashed and burned. He needs a distraction, some way to relax, and a massage seems like just the thing. He never expected his massage therapist, Antonio Roberto, to become his best friend.

Despite their differences—Antonio is a divorced single father—the two men forge a firm friendship that weathers Mark's reconciliation with Brian and Antonio's questionable taste in women. Over the years, Antonio remains constant in his support, though others in Mark's life come and go through a revolving door.

When a young boy runs away from the group home where he works, Mark finds another door opening. Through it all he holds on to the things his loved ones taught him—about family, about friends and lovers, about life and death. Most importantly, he realizes that sometimes the greatest gift of all is a second chance.

Second Chances Details

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From Reader Review Second Chances for online ebook

Karla says

4 1/2 Stars!! I'm smiling through my tears!

I'm having trouble forming anything coherent. Everytime I think of the events that played out in this book, especially one in particular, I find it hard to think, or for that matter breath. Sad and sweet rolled into one amazing read. So, for the most part while I was reading this book my heart felt like this...

but by the end of the book it felt like this...

sigh It drained me, but I'm a better person for having read it.

Very emotional, but at times also amusing, and this particular scene had me laughing out loud.

"The Colonnade was a landmark in Atlanta. Blue-haired ladies sat side by side with all the Midtown gay boys. The food was wonderful—what's not to like about fried chicken, and yeast rolls and beef stroganoff made from scratch? But the crowd, that was why we were there. It rivaled anything on Golden Girls or Designing Women.

The last time Brian and I'd been there for dinner, there was a table of twinkies and their mothers next to us. We'd just been seated. It was the middle of summer, and Atlanta in August—no fucking picnic. Anyway, this darling little blond boy looked at his mother as he fanned himself with the menu and said, "I have just been moist all day."

Yeah, it's that kind of place."

Love it!! The author knows how to tug at the heart, but also has no problem making fun of certain circumstances, not in a mean way, but in a way that has the reader appreciating the point he's trying to make. I'm definitely putting more of his books on my reading list!

That's it Monique...no more recs!! You're killing me, but I still love you and I loved this book!!

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

This book was a beautiful story about love and loss and, of course, second chances.

I was a little hesitant to read this story, to be honest. Most of my Goodreads friends adored this story and a

book with that amount of hype often doesn't live up to expectations. However, this book just blew me away.

As this was my first book by T.A. Webb, I was anxious to discover if his writing style meshed with what I like. What I loved was that his characters were so vivid and so full of *feeling*. They felt raw and vulnerable and I was able to be really present in the story. That connection made the story so special for me. Unlike many of my GR friends, I didn't relate to this book on a personal level. I haven't gone through the things that Mark went through. However, I still felt so involved with the characters' stories that I found myself on the edge of tears for most of the book. It touched me in a way that few books can.

Outstanding job T.A. Webb! I'll be reading much more of his books in the future.

Christy says

A story about love, life, pain, healing, acceptance, forgiveness, and

I personally could not give this book less than 5 stars. It was such a beautiful story and it is going right on to my favorites shelf.

We start out meeting Mark Jennings. Mark is lonely. He is overwhelmed. He is grieving, and he is in pain. Not only has he just got out of a long term relationship, he is dealing with a stressful job and helping with his very sick mother.

Do all the right things, say all the right words to ease everybody else's pain. Let everyone drain me a bit more every minute of every day of what little resources I had left. Take and take and take from me and never give back.

With everything Mark is going through, he is encouraged to do something for himself. So he does. he schedules a massage to help him relax. He meets Antonio, his masseuse. Antonio and Mark hit it off straight away. Antonio is not gay or bisexual. He likes women. But he has no problem with Mark being gay and they become close friends. Antonio gives Mark more than just a massage.

Mark gets back with his ex-boyfriend Brian, and his mother passes. His job changes, life changes, but he keeps going back to Antonio for massages. Over the years, they grow closer. Mark meets Antonio's son, Jason, and Antonio meets Mark's family and Brian. They are best friends. There is always something between them. Of course, Mark finds Antonio attractive(who wouldn't???) but he never acts on it. His friendship means too much to them, plus he would never be unfaithful to Brian. I wasn't crazy about Brian in the beginning of the book, but he redeemed himself. Everyone makes mistakes and he owned up to his. I loved his relationship with Mark. They truly loved each other and cared for one another.

The years pass, things happen... From 40-60% I cried. I sobbed. I was heartbroken.

(view spoiler)

It really was an emotional roller coaster.

Through all the obstacles and changes in Marks life, Antonio becomes a constant. A best friend he can always count on. Eventually, their relationship changes...

(view spoiler)

And it made me so happy! My tears had dried and I had a huge smile on my face for a good part of the last 30%. And there were some scenes... holy wow- they were hot! Not just a little hot... a lot of hot!

Mark was a relatable character. You felt what he felt. Going through his journey was incredible. And Antonio... there was just something about him from the start. He was just hot, sexy and wonderful! As much as I loved and adored Mark and Antonio, I also fell in love with many of the secondary characters in this book. Robbie. Jason. Mark's father. That man knew the meaning of unconditional love. If all parents were like him, the world would be a better place.

“All he needs is to know somebody wants him for something besides, well, you know what I'm talking about. For his heart, not what he can do for them. I raised you to know being different is okay, and nothing you could do would make me love you any less.”

The writing was incredible. The story was moving, beautiful and emotional. I laughed, cried, sobbed, smiled and when I finished, I was on a reading high. I was happy and content. A book you DO NOT want to miss out on! My favorite m/m book to date- I will for sure be reading more from this author!!!

My favorite line:

My Mark and Antonio...

Pavlina Read more sleep less blog♥♥ says

An amazing book!!!

WOW. This book just rocked my World!!!! From the first page my heart was gripped, twisted, torn and then it was caressed and filled with joy.

Words just cannot convey enough of how beautiful this book really is!!!

Loved the writing and the love scenes were so intense!!!

Mark is trying to recover from the separation of Brian when his mother dies and leaves a huge empty hole in his soul.

I was kinda connected with Mark because he seemed to be such a reliable and gentle guy, trying to protect everyone while doing the best he could. Thinking about how he forgave Brian for cheating and gave him a second chance!!! Because thinking about your lover slept with someone else and overcome this is even more painful...

Brian had never forgiven himself for straying and spent his love and life with and for Mark. But life always takes some strange turns... One door closes and another opens... Mark finds one of the young boys he deals with at his job, Robbie, is homeless and now at the shelter for boys. His mom left him when he was twelve, and Robbie had to live on the streets using drugs and selling his body. He and Mark forge a friendship of love and respect. What should be a happy time. But soon another unexpected loss has Mark reeling..

What can I say about Antonio???? Sorry Rosa I know he is your man but I like him a lot too!!! :D

This guy blew my mind away!!! I loved him even more than Mark. Antonio was something else and totally my kink with his tats and muscles. Yummy :D. hat I would have given to have a massage from him!!! I loved how he was so open with his feelings. If he needed to work out what was going on in his head he went right on and acted on it. I could totally get how Mark and Antonio were with each other and how their relationship built. I loved how they were there for each other through the deaths, money troubles and taking care of Antonio's son, Jason.

Tom has told a story about friendship, lovers, family and heart. Mark Jennings is a good man, kind, responsible, a loving son and brother. I highly recommended to everyone!!!

FOR THE END :D

For more reviews you can check mine and Kristinas's blog. :D

my link text

Nancy says

Cross-posted at Outlaw Reviews and at Shelf Inflicted

Even though many of my friends heaped enthusiastic reviews on this story, and I've read and enjoyed T.A. Webb's reviews and know he's a thoughtful guy who writes from the heart, I still put off reading this.

My mom died recently, so I wasn't sure my somewhat fragile emotions would handle reading about a man who is losing his mother to liver disease and at the same time trying to get over the pain of betrayal by his cheating ex.

I'm so glad I put my misgivings aside and snagged a copy.

Told from the perspective of Mark Jennings, we are privy to his thoughts, feelings, memories, and reactions to the people and situations in his life. I really liked being in his head. Even though many of Mark's thoughts and casual conversations were peppered with f-bombs and delivered with a subtle sense of humor, his life and his pain were very real and his character felt like a composite of people I've known. This made him so easy to relate to, and his experiences that much more heartbreaking and believable.

"You listen close, 'cause I ain't saying this but once. That boy is my family now. He's got a home, he's got people that love him. And don't think we don't know how to fuckin' hide a body when we need to."

Now who wouldn't want a guy like Mark in their family?

This is a story of love, forgiveness, loss, and hope. It is a story of friendship and families, made and born. It is about imperfect people who made mistakes. It is told over a period of 11 years, so nothing ever felt rushed.

I loved the exploration of youth homelessness and foster care in the US.

A couple of gripes:

- Certain events were given only minor coverage when I would have preferred to witness them.
- Some events felt a little too easy, too contrived, and didn't jive with the rest of the story.

I'm glad I finally read this story. Along with the many tears I shed were plenty of smiles. I'm very much looking forward to a sequel.

Thanks to Kukko from Bookie Nookie's Erotic Lending Group for lending this to me.

Debra says

♥ 5 BEAUTIFUL AND HEARTWARMING STARS. ♥

Second Chances is a story about love, hurt, loss, friendship, family and forgiveness.

To say that I enjoyed reading every part of this story would be a lie, some parts were just tough to read, they were sad and heartbreaking. But in the end, all I can say is that this book made me FEEL, it moved me in a way I can't really explain with words and THAT is why I can't give this story anything but a five star rating.

I don't want to spoil the story too much for future readers so I'll keep my summary short...

At the beginning of Second Chances we meet Mark. On the verge of his thirtieth birthday, Mark is anything but happy with his life. In fact, he feels downright miserable. He just ended the relationship with the love of his life, Brian, his current job is wearing him out with a huge amount of work hours and to top it all, his mother has a terrible disease and she doesn't have much longer to live.

So, Mark decides to look for a way to reduce some of the stress he's feeling and that's how he meets Antonio. A very straight massage therapist.

"With me, you get a great massage for an hour and there isn't any funny business."

I didn't know whether to say Amen or Shit.

Because of their weekly massage sessions, Mark and Antonio soon become friends. Best friends even. They support each other through all of the messy parts in their lives and over the course of several years their friendship *always* remains intact. But then, their friendship starts to turn into something more. And as both of them are trying to discover what that *more* means, we, as readers, discover it along with them. We follow their journey, through the good times and the bad. It's a remarkable journey that will eventually life you with a huge smile on your face...

"I needed you to know I'm him. I'm that guy."

"What guy, babe?"

"The guy who would do anything to deserve a man like you."

Aside from Mark and Antonio, there are some other side characters that I absolutely loved as well. Mark's

father, Robbie, Jason...they made this reading experience all the more interesting and meaningful.

"It's funny where the mind wanders when you're waiting for death to take someone you love."

With this story, the author really reminded me that life can be cruel, it can be harsh and unfair but at the same time, it also showed me that it's never too late to hope. There's always a chance for a better life; even in the darkest of our days.

This was my first M/M read and I must say I really enjoyed it. The writing was remarkable and managed to grasp my attention from the very first page till the very last one. When I started reading it, I had no idea what to expect but I can honestly say it surprised me in a very good way. I've discovered a new genre that I think is very much worth exploring further and if all the books in this genre are comparable to this one, then I think I'll be reading much more of them in the future.

***BIG thank you* to my friend Rosalinda for organizing the buddy read and for making me take notice of this story.** Otherwise it might have taken me months or even years before I would have actually sat down and read this story and that would have been a real shame, because this story deserves to be read, it deserves to be talked about, cried over and shared with as many readers as possible. This book might not be for everyone, but to future readers, I can only say: give it a *chance* and hopefully you'll enjoy reading it as much as I did...

♥Laddie♥ (Lee Lee) says

2.75 - Why Am I ALWAYS The One Who Doesn't Love It??

I was on the fence about this book but it was getting so many glowing reviews that I decided to take a chance on it. It ended up being just...not for me.

1.) The word "fuck" in all of its glorious forms

I'm no prude about language but when in the first six or so pages the word fuck is used at least five or six times? That's just repetitive. Repetitive and distracting to the point of where by chapter three it was annoying me. I felt like it was supposed to be a character trait of Mark the main character but it was overdone. Way

overdone.

2.) Wait...you mean that's not cheating?

So, Mark's been cheated on by his man and, without giving too much away, he's with someone at one point and thinking of what counts as cheating. Dual naked massages where Mark's rubbing a guy's balls and all up in his ass crack? Not cheating according to Mark. What's cheating? According to Mark, touching is not cheating unless it's his dick touching another man's ass. Uh huh. Oral sex; no dick in ass. Fingering; no dick in ass. Hand job; no dick in ass. Take notes men because none of what I just listed is cheating.

3.) Wait...that doesn't mean you're gay...apparently

Also, according to Mark, having your penis in another man's ass doesn't make you gay. Getting a blowjob doesn't make you gay. HAVING a dick in *your* ass or a dick in *your* mouth makes you gay. It's the true test of The Gay. This was a true flaw in Mark's character for me. It just struck me as ignorant. Maybe it's just me but, in my opinion, being in love with or attracted to another man is what makes you bi or gay. It doesn't matter who's catching, pitching, licking, sucking, thrusting or whatever.

4.) What makes a man a man

There was a definite idea in this book of what the main character (and maybe the author indirectly) thought made a man masculine. it...irked me. I think I saw where the author was trying to go with it but it rubbed me the wrong way. Also, I just kept flashing back to a scene where Mark thinks that he wants a man to do his deep tissue massage because only a man's hands are strong enough to really get into the muscles. It seems like a small thing but it was a real WTF moment for me.

All of those things up there really REALLY bugged me. This was the author's first novel, so I'm guessing that he's still perfecting his craft. I didn't find the writing strong enough or engaging enough to keep the things that annoyed me from taking over and ruining my enjoyment of the book.

I will say this, the idea for the book was a good one. I was intrigued by the idea of getting a second chance at love. I will also say that this first novel was better than a good number of stories that are out now. Depending on what the author's second book is about I just might read it.

Kelly says

What a truly amazing, beautiful story. It grabbed me from the first page and would not let go. I laughed, I cried and I rooted like crazy for Mark to find the happiness he deserved. Yes, it's emotionally draining, but it's more than worth it.

Thank you, Mr. Webb, for writing this book. It's one I won't soon forget.

Rosalinda *KRASNORADA* says

RE-READ & BR MAY 2013 with Amaia, Pavlina, Shannon, Mona, Sue (Mistress), Jahayra, Lisa, Melissa. I missed you Anne!

I have no words to express how much I love this book, even more every time I re-read it.

Can't wait to read Robbie's story!!!

-----Previous review-----

*****THANK YOU ALL FOR THIS GREAT BR*****

♥ ♥ ♥ FIVE HUGE STARS!!! ♥ ♥ ♥

Second Chances is probably my favourite M/M book, it was real, sweet, hard, hot, beautiful and many more adjectives that I could name. I just HATE MYSELF for waiting so long to read this one. I just discovered a new fave author (thanks Monique) and I cannot wait to read more of his stories.

This book tells us the story of Mark. He's a guy who works in a non profit agency and his life is very stressful: he's always busy at work, he's mom is dying and his boyfriend cheated on him. His boss recommends him to go get a massage to relax his body and that's how he meets Antonio.

Antonio is hot as hell and straight. He loves women, period.

"With me, you get a great massage for an hour and there isn't any funny business"
I didn't know whether to say *Amen* or *Shit*

Everything I want the world to be
Is now comin' true especially for me
And the reason is clear, it's because you are here
You're the nearest thing to Heaven that I've seen

They both become friends and they support each other as much as they can.

Mark's family is just GREAT, most of it anyway because some of the members are just STUPID. Antonio doesn't have a very close relationship with his family but he has a son called Jason and he loves him to death.

But Mark's mom is about to die. Shit happens, right? I wouldn't say this is a sad book, hell no. This is a book about HOPE, about finding positive things after all.

And I felt like I was Mark all the freaking time. T.A. just makes you feel like he's writing his books based on your life even if you are way different from the characters, you just feel their life is your life. And it hurts because it brings you memories and you can't help it, your wounds will re-open but the journey is sooooo beautiful that is so f@cking worth it. Because this book taught me that life is beautiful and worth it and you need to accept what is coming because better things will come no matter what. But you also need to accept that shit happens and you better deal with it.

It's funny where the mind wanders when you're waiting for death to take someone you love

But the show must go on and that's what I loved about Mark, he never complained, he just accepted what life had for him.

He eventually forgives Brian, his ex and they are happy together but he never stops visiting Antonio. They saw each other every week, for a massage and to catch up on things. Every single week they were closer, they understood each other better, they supported each other...

And something happens but they both keep being good friends although they never stop teasing each other.

"You just ain't met the right woman yet."

"And you haven't met the right man. Or maybe you have."

"Oh, yeah. I met the right man, all right. A fucking miracle. An angel here on earth"

Let me tell you that Mark never cheated on Brian, EVER. I see it like he obviously felt very attracted to Antonio (and who isn't?) but he was always HONEST with Brian. The thing is we have this wrong idea about non-real couples who live in la-la-la land and they just have eyes for each other. BULLSHIT!. When you are in a relationship things are not black or white, you don't feel butterflies every single day after 20 years and you have doubts, you meet new people who make you have double thoughts, you are HUMAN. And Mark was human too.

I didn't like Brian at the beginning of the book but I just don't know how I started loving him. Ok, he made a mistake, we all make mistakes and we want to be forgiven. But he paid for that mistake and then he proved his love for Mark so I couldn't help it and not only forgave me but I also fell in love with him. You get to know his past and you understand that is also needs love.

As the time goes by Mark gets a new job in Hope House, a place for children in foster care and we meet a very special person called Robbie. He was one of my favourite characters. This kid had a horrible life but he was always respectful and in need of love.

It took a village to raise a child, and it took a rainbow of colors to make them feel at home and

comfortable

And their lives go on but as usual things and shit happens and everything changes. I know sometimes is hard but that's life and we have to accept what's coming. We need to be happy with what we have and we need to let go.

I know you guys won't be disappointed with this book because you're are gonna love the journey. You are gonna feel you are Mark and you're gonna think that the author is talking about your life sometimes and that's just awesome because you feel that you are part of the story.

But life will always give you a second chance and you need to grab it and make the best of it. Never look back and try your best to be happy.

"The guy who would do anything to deserve a man like you"

This book taught me about forgiveness, family, love, loss and second chances...

Come let me love you
Let me give my life to you
Let me drown in your laughter
Let me die in your arms
Let me lay down beside you
Let me always be with you
Come let me love you
Come love me again

NOTE: As you already know we are starting an EPIC buddy read for this book on Monday 1st April. If you want to join us you just need to visit the thread and meet your fellow readers. It's going to be AWESOME and I promise you guys will love the book:

<http://www.goodreads.com/topic/show/1...>

This is the playlist in case you want to listen to these songs while reading:

Waiting for a Superman - Iron and Wine

The Pretender - Jackson Browne
Storms in Africa - Enya
Amazing Grace - Joan Baez
Christmas Time is Here - Vince Guaraldi Trio
I'm Going to Stop Pretending That I Didn't Break Your Heart - The Eels
Broken - Lifehouse
Waiting for the World to Change - John Mayer
I'm Yours - The Script
Your Body is a Wonderland - John Mayer
Fix You - Coldplay
At Last - Etta James
Dreaming with a Broken Heart - John Mayer
Who are You When I'm Not Looking - Blake Shelton
Storm - Lifehouse
Wonderful Tonight - Eric Clapton
Takes My Breath Away - Tuck and Patti
Kiss Me - Ed Sheeran
Our House - CSNY
Annie's Song - John Denver

BOOK 2 is probably being released this year, I'll confirm the date as soon as I know. I CAN'T freaking wait for Robbie's story!!!

Nick Pageant says

Another beautiful book from T.A. Webb. I love this man's writing so very much. Each time I read one of his books I'm struck by the fact that they don't feel "written". It's much more like listening to a friend tell you a great story.

This story concerns Mark (or is it Tom?) a wonderful guy who goes through some serious hell to get his HEA. I shed a lot of tears reading this, but am now filled with the warm fuzzies and looking forward to book 2.

Baba says

EPIC buddy read April 1, 2013

3 stars.*Review posted April 2, 2013**

My review contains spoilers.

First off I'm not really sure where I should start with my review. So, please bear with me when my comments are all over the place.

I am very sorry to disappoint a couple of my friends, but I think it's best to be honest. *Second Chances* is a full-in-your-face drama as well as a sob feast par excellence. Funny thing is, I was not as affected as I expected I'd be when I started reading the book. Also, the story pushed the sweet tooth too hard for my taste. As it was, the epilogue took a turn into *Sapsville*. Hence, I really believe it would have been good to tone it down a little bit. There was just too much melodrama and crying, at least for me. In fact, I finished the book, but along the way I lost count how many people died who were part of Mark and Antonio's lives.

I need to say that I could never warm up to Mark. You know he is a 'normal' guy with a 'normal' job. Let's face it, we are not talking about a badass biker dude or a gangster boss. We're talking about Mark. Mark who was working as a CFO for an agency (*Hope House*) that worked with kids in foster care. And before his engagement at *Hope House* he worked as a controller for a small nonprofit. Hence, I completely and utterly disliked his filthy mouth and choleric temper. Truth be told, I was thinking time and again "*Dude, watch your language and rein in your temper!*". A couple of pages into the story we know already that Mark is going to lose his mother, however, he has no shame whatsoever to cuss all the time. Another time he threatened to kill Brian's parents. I'm aware of Brian's shitty childhood, though I just have to wonder if this comment was necessary. Seriously, I didn't appreciate it.

At 5%

Well, man, I offer deep tissue, professional massage table, shower available. And by massage I MEAN massage. No happy ending stuff.(...)

The thing is that at the end of the first massage Antonio jerked him off. Stress reliever and all. Yeah, right.

At 19%

Antonio is sc@@@ing a married woman who has kids.

"(...) She's in town taking a break from the husband and kids and staying with me a few days," he explained. Wow. Virtual high five. He lost a couple of points here.

At 25 %

Brian didn't like anybody touching him. Those years he'd spent in foster care had damaged him in ways that hurt me to see. Made me want to track down some of those motherf@ckers who posed as caring, giving foster parents and beat them bloody.

Uh-huh. However, Brian didn't mind to cuddle with Mark (cuddling = touching). He didn't mind to cheat on him. Brian's "problem" should have been explored more. It left me somewhat unsatisfied.

The naked massage interludes between Antonio and Mark

I think it was very wrong not to tell Brian about their massages. **It's lying by omission!**

Now let me get to the part that made me so angry.

At 54 %; it was the first and last time I cried when I was reading this story.

Lights will guide you home, love.

I knew that something was off with Brian's health but his quick death came as a shock. I will go so far and say WTF?

You know I was always wondering what's worse. Losing a loved one suddenly (i.e. accident) or after a long journey of suffering (i.e. disease). No matter how you look at it, it plain sucks. It hurts big time. I'm familiar with both. Now let me get to the point. Mark gets *the* call, he rushes to the hospital and then wham! Brian dies. Where the hell was the build-up that led to his death? Within three (3!) Kindle pages he is...just gone. No explanations whatsoever except that he had a brain tumor and he wouldn't make a recovery after this final and very severe seizure. Geez, Baba was so mad! And I'm sure there was plenty of page time to talk about it. Unfortunately, though, it didn't happen. I'm sorry, but one talk about "*Did you take your medication?*" is just not good enough for me. What was simply too much as well was the fact that his death was indirectly related to Robbie. Not cool. I flat out refuse to be emotionally manipulated.

"I know you were looking for Robbie. It's okay. Don't worry about him. It's just you and me here. I wanted to see those beautiful eyes of yours one more time, baby. I'm ready. Are you ready?"

It's funny where the mind wanders when you're waiting for death to take someone you love.

Very true.

Now the road was clear for Antonio. All in all the plot was too predictable.

The Jason and Robbie case

Let me explain what rubbed me the wrong way. Jason is Antonio's son and Robbie is the homeless kid who found shelter at *Hope House*. *Hope House* is also Mark's employer. And Robbie was adopted by Mark's dad. Wasn't it very convenient that these two boys did end up as a couple? There was the whole shebang (talk about being out and proud). It was no surprise at all and the icing on the cake. Not. I mean, please, could it be any more obvious?

Mark's departure at 88 %: He was a drama queen in full force. Well done, Mark. Excuse me for being sarcastic. Oh, and Antonio was sobbing. *sigh*

The car drama at 92 % put the final nail in the coffin. Seriously? *rolls eyes*

What I liked

I moved to the bathroom and grabbed the bottle of lube and a condom. WE used to go bare, but I didn't know what he'd done and with whom. So, no glove, no love. And honestly, I heard all that shit about the sensitivity, blah, blah, blah, but my cock never knew the difference between skin and raincoat, because, really, it loved ass regardless.

That's very sensible.

Also, I liked the cover and the **concept** of a second chance at love. Though it is very unfortunate that the execution did not appeal to me.

Read the book and chances are that you'll end up loving it. It just wasn't for me.

Dd says

Every once in a while, you come across something which reminds you.....

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL!

Second Chances by T.A. Webb is such a book.

It starts out as **ordinary**. With this guy who loves to curse. The story being written from his point of view, like a narration.

His mother is dying. His job is taking a heavy toll on him. And his long-time relationship with his boyfriend has ended, badly.

And then comes in the massage therapist Antonio, when Mark looks for a real, deep tissue massage to work out his tension.

That's how they meet.

From then on, Antonio becomes a fixture in Mark's life.

And everything else keeps changing.

Now as I told you, it was very ordinary at first. I tried but could not get the point of this story. I could not understand where it was headed.

But at some point, I'm not sure which, it all changed.

This seemingly ordinary story suddenly became something special....

....and I loved it.

Don't get me wrong,it has way too many flaws to be perfect.And neither did it blow me away.

What it did was worm its way into my heart,without me even noticing.

I do not even know when I started loving it.

Here, I discovered....

The power and beauty of a simple touch.

The power and beauty of forgiveness.

The power and beauty of sorrow.

Of just closing your eyes and letting go.

I sobbed....and sobbed....and sobbed.

I discovered....

Family.Friendship.Love.Courage.

And I discovered the power and beauty of....

L.I.F.E

Readers,if you say that it dragged,was a bit all over the place,a bit abrupt,.....I'll have to agree with you.

It was.

But I absolutely loved it.

So,if you're interested,read the other reviews,see the other ratings,and then make up your mind.

Because I find myself blind to everything but the beauty of this story.

I'm a wreck now.I hate crying so much.My eyes are red.

So,I'll take leave now.

That's all for now,Readers.

Goodbye!!

Monique says

READ THIS BOOK... IT IS A MUST READ AND TRULY AMAZING <3333

YAY... MY REVIEW IS BACK!!! WITH FULLY CLOTHED MEN... NOT QUITE
KISSING!!!!!!

THE LITTLE BUGGERS AREN'T GOING TO CATCH ME OUT THIS TIME!!!

This book is the very reason I love to read, and my words would never do this book justice, no amount of gushing or effusive prose could even begin to convey just how incredibly gifted T.A. Webb is, this is without doubt one of my top shelf 5 Star PLUS reads... It's just Truly Wonderful!

This is not one of those books that gets your adrenaline pumping and has you shouting profanities, however I did want to knock a few heads together at times. It is not page after page of panty melting sex... although when Mark gets his growly voice on – HOLY HOTNESS, I certainly wouldn't say no!

So what do we get from this novel? It is a *Love Story*, of *Family*, *Friendship* and *Lovers*, it tells of strength, faith, understanding, courage, forgiveness and second chances and it is profoundly moving and emotional and holds your heart hostage for the duration. The World can pass you by yet you are totally and completely captivated and engrossed. These characters become your best friends with all their pain and joy becoming your own. Their lives are painted in such vivid pictures before your eyes with every expression and quirk familiar, whilst all the time your heart is running through a gamut of emotions... and as for any friend you are there to hold their hand.

This tale is Mark Jennings to tell and I loved his voice, in fact I loved everything him, he is six foot two and an extrovert who likes to be in control of the whole kit and caboodle... and he does it oh *so* well! He seems to carry the burden of responsibility for those around him but he is totally unselfish, caring and has such a considerate nature with a *wicked* sense of humour! He is not perfect and makes mistakes as we all do

but I so wish he was a real person, cause I would really like him as a friend, he has integrity and honour and takes no shit, but he doesn't give it either, fiercely protective of those he loves and is so full of compassion I just adored him.

This book is spread over ten years of Marks life and really I don't want to go into the detail of what happens where and when despite the fact I have copious yellow highlights and notes on this book as it is quite an in-depth story, but at no time did it feel disjointed or uncomfortable to read, for me the pacing and the prose were perfect and you should discover it as I did, as part of your journey with Mark.

There are some other main characters I would like to touch on, mainly Brian, Marks lover, they had been childhood friends who's relationship grew to love and together they experienced all their firsts in life. Brian was a pretty damaged character and his teenage years were not the stuff of dreams and in the beginning he was most definitely not my favourite character but I did grow to like him and found their relationship worked for them. Brian was a little weak for my liking but he was the perfect compliment to Marks strength.

Which leads us to Antonio.. now here we have the hotness factor...Hell Yes!! Six feet tall, shaved head, blue eyes and.... Mm hmm ...Tattoos! Oh, and he's straight ...and just so happens to be a Masseuse, can you tell I really like Antonio? and also separated from his wife, with an eight year old son, Jason. Antonio is also Marks best friend and his past is littered with mistakes and shortcomings, he is a man whore with no idea of the effect he has on women and doesn't mind discussing his conquests with Mark who for obvious reasons wants to put his fingers in his ears and shout "la la la la" Antonio is one of life's free spirits, genuine and caring with no sense of peoples boundaries, not self conscious or inhibited in anyway. He also happens to be the only person that Mark can truly relax with, partly due to the massage but mainly because Antonio is a genuinely nice guy and someone Mark is not responsible for and when he asks a question Antonio's eyes are full of interest and concern and Mark can for at least a little while turn off his control button and just be himself.

There are a whole host of family members, some of whom I would rather scratch their eyes out, especially the brother Sam and the Bible bashing sister, but Marks father and two of his sisters are beyond doubt stars as well as Antonio's son and Jason and a kid from the Children's home, Robbie.

So, this book is about, *UNCONDITIONAL LOVE* both given and received and we see just how beautiful it is on every page, it's not gushy and in your face sickly sweet, the words and sentiment have meaning and my joy and sadness and everything in-between was tied up with them and I was crying from laughing so hard, crying because my heart was breaking and then crying because I was happy! ...I did a lot of crying and I suggest investing in a box of tissues!

Tom Webb is an incredibly gifted writer, he has treated us to a comedy and drama mixed with fabulously animated characters. This is not just highly recommended it just a case of, if you like m-m romance READ THIS BOOK!!!

For more reviews, please check out Sinfully Sexy Book Reviews and you can also find us on Facebook

Susan says

Full review as well as a personal letter to the author found at:

<http://loveaffairwithanereader.blogspot...>

- * I was sobbing for 1/3 of this book...uncontrollably.
- * I was drinking wine for 2/3 of this book...uncontrollably.
- * I was getting my ass kicked for 3/3 of this book...uncontrollably.

It's impossible for me to review "Second Chances" because honestly, it hits SO CLOSE to home that I have zero ability to see from any perspective except smack-dab in the middle of it. No story has ever felt so much like looking into a mirror (well, if that mirror reflected back a version of myself as a gay man! Ha!) And though I feel 100% connected to the character of Mark, I also see bits of myself (as well as bits of who I want to be) in Antonio, Brian, Mark's Dad, even the boys sometimes.

So many thoughts, emotions, and revelations came to me while reading that I felt overwhelmed...and altered...yes...life-changing...or more, life-affirming...

I can't say, nor do I care, whether the writing or the plot or the characterizations or the flow or even the mutherf'ing grammar were perfect or not. (I can't even question naked massages and sudden moves cross-country.)

For me, to me, within me...this is me (the me that I am, and the me I want to be).

Thank you, T.A. Webb...Tom...for this.

Georgia ♥ Team Dex ♥ says

4.5 Compassionate, Hopeful and Healing Stars

"To those that have scars and bumps and bruises on their souls, but stars in their eyes."

Life is an amazing gift and an unbearable burden. We get through the bad times by dreaming of better ones. We pray for a chance to fly, to escape, to love. And always to be loved back. For what we truly are. Not the brave front we show to the world, but the scared child that hides in our souls and only a mother's caress, can comfort it.

Mark carries the weight of the world on his shoulders and **Antonio** is the man that will help him with it.

Spanning 11 years of their lives, witnessing the moments that almost broke them and the pieces they left behind, we are living with these two men, as they are dealing with mundane, everyday things such as work

and making child support, to life altering ones such as loss, grief, heartbreak, betrayal and the inevitable human nature of making the same mistakes, all over again.

We see them as friends and then confidants and finally lovers, in an emotional, realistic story and you can't help but laugh, cry and love along with them, as they redefine the concept family and their place in the world.

“Oh, yeah, I met the right man, all right. A fucking miracle. An angel here on earth.”

This is a beautiful story of acceptance. And a lesson in life. People feel threatened of what they don't understand and thrive on making others, feel ashamed of who they are.

Does this, make it wrong?? No, that makes it unique and a chance in happiness.

“At last my love has come along, my lonely days are over...”

I've never thought I would enjoy a book by a male author in the M/M genre so much. Thought provoking and arousing, dramatic and believable, a book that you don't wanna miss. My only complaint? I loved the ending don't get me wrong... but it seemed a little too convenient, too tied up with a pretty bow!

Overall, **PUSH YOUR LIMITS, GO FORTH AND READ IT!** And trust me, this is only my second M/M read; I get the way you are thinking!

As Mark and Antonio, learned... Life is too short for lost opportunities!

EPIC BUDDY READ ON MONDAY APRIL 1st!

Organised, by mia amiga Rosalinda and involving more than 30 AWESOME, AMAZING and just like me SLIGHTLY CRAZY people, among them some of my besties like Debra, Soraya and Marina, ALL TIME FAVOURITE REVIEWER Baba and some new awesome friends like Sarah the hottie, Mo, Karen, Christy, Ellelou, Deirdre..

Please, forgive me and nag me away if I forgot you!!!

Love ya, girls....

I really had no chance of resisting...
