



## Touch Me

*James Moloney*

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A new, young adult novel from award-winning Australian author James Moloney, this is a love story that explores male/female sexuality, and looks at the culture of football, masculinity, mateship and friendship, and the pressures of year 12 on emerging adults.

## Touch Me Details

Date : Published May 1st 2000 by University of Queensland Pr (Australia)

ISBN : 9780702231513

Author : James Moloney

Format : Paperback 243 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Realistic Fiction, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Touch Me for online ebook

### Cevrine says

Nuala and Xavier.  
Read in year 10 english

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### Olivia says

I got handed this book for my year 12 English class and I was excited to read it because it was a book by one of my favourite authors. Once I started reading this book I made a habit of reading this more than doing my other homework because it was so good. I didn't want to put it down. I even found myself crying at some points. Will defiantly read it again.

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### Nialler says

Beautiful book about a young boy called Xavier whose life revolves around rugby that is until he meets a girl..

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### Ellie says

The storey was rubbish. I don't understand why the author wrote this book. :(

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### Jolivhanna says

Touch Me is a coming-of-age story that examines the trials and tribulations of love, life and loss - all in the eyes of an Australian teenager, Xavier, who is about to graduate high school. But upon meeting Nuala Magee, he realises that he still has a lot to learn about himself.

This young man makes a full evolution throughout the story from a set-in-stone rugby player with a "winning is everything" attitude, to a grown man with a renewed appreciation of life. After befriending and ultimately dating a girl with a traumatic past, meeting a boy with a terminal illness and truly examining his relationships with friends and familiars, Xavier McLachlan is exposed to and learns about the many different hardships that can plague life and pose the risk of losing the courage to live on - and ultimately, that life is nothing to take for granted. The reader is taken step-by-step through Xavier's slow but sure path to discovering who he really is, as opposed to who he has always believed himself to be.

There are some heavy themes in this novel, including death, teen sexuality and violence. Touch Me is a compelling read, and highly recommended.

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**Linh Le says**

I was struggling to read on. If it wasn't for my school assignment I would've dropped it half way through part one! It was boring. Although, the ending about the Alex situation spiced it up a bit but the rest was useless and irrelevant!

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**Lana Jackson says**

I read this book to help my son, who is in year 11. He had to study this book for English.

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**Emma Hunter says**

When I first looked at this book after getting it for a class at school, I was a tad disappointed. When I began it though, I found it incredibly enjoyable. Don't judge this book by its cover or by its blurb (which should be rewritten), judge it after you've read it.

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**Nerida Hart says**

One of my favourite books as a teenager. Made me understand how the boys lived at a private school. Brought on my love for the name Xavier :)

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**Sofie says**

When I first read this I was 14 and madly in love with my first crush, it really fuelled my feelings and helped me figure out my emotions. Such a wonderful read and a book that I will always cherish and hold onto for the way it helped me get through the challenging life of a teenager

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**John Sheahan says**

A brilliant look at gender and adolescent hetero relationships.

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**Anne says**

Quirky story about conformity and being strong enough to be who you want to be. Really enjoyed as an adult although it does target young adults. Worth reading and a quick read.

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## **Brittany says**

I'm actually starting to enjoy being in the minority of hate. I love letting my hate rage just flow and destroy my opposition (my friends) and prove them wrong.

Right. Book.

### **Plot**

Plot's...iffy. It started well, but it was sidetracked with feelings and bullshit, that didn't need to be included. Like the pregnancy. And the death. Some information that was included was just pointless. And pointless information should be punishable by death.

### **Writing Style**

The writing style infuriates me. Mr Moloney obviously hasn't heard of a thin called a period or 'full stop'. Look. See? I can use them. Can you Mr Moloney? Sentences aren't freight trains, they have to finish at some point. So don't get me started on commas and apostrophes.

Point of view was horrible. You would change from character perspective to another character perspective without warning. It was especially confusing when you swapped between Nuala and Xavier and back again in the space of two paragraphs. Swapping character perspective without a sign is a big no no. You don't need a parade, complete with ticker tape, just a little nudge and a "hey, it's this person now," would suffice nicely.

### **Characters**

Xavier-I loved and hated him. He attracted and repulsed me at the same time. Which was weird. Normally I'm very bi-polar towards characters and people a-like. I either love or hate you. The end. Sorry to offend anyone, but that's me. So to find someone that I hate and love...weird. He had some qualities that I loved, but others that really put me off him. I liked that he loved football, (I personally love football, so any guy that's loves it like I do, get's a tick in my book) but he was obsessed to the point that he cared more about football than his family and friends...unless they were in his team. And excuse me, you do not hit inspiration by listening to a song, finish in ten minutes and win first prize. It's impossible. Trust me. The last first prize I won in a story competition was a 250 word story, four drafts, and hours of agonizing. And it was out of 180 kids...so yeah...not that impressive.

Nuala-

**GYAH! I HATE YOU.**

**BITCH.**

You do not represent girls against stereotyped femininity. You are not an empowered woman. You're a prissy little bitch who was a slut, sleeping with a boy, while in school, before really knowing him, and it backfired. Grow up honey. Actions have consequences. **Bitch.**

Aside from the above rant, she is seriously not a tomboy, against stereotypes. She was a girl who was hurt and didn't like boy's looking at her like a...well a boy. They can't help their genetics and instincts that make them look. Still doesn't mean I wouldn't punch them in the nose if I ever did find a boy vision impaired enough to look, but my point rests. My point is that she decides to make a mockery of me, by acting like them and showing them how stupid they look sometimes. Make them feel uncomfortable. Regardless whether she knows them or not. And that, is frankly rude. You're punishing society for a minority of minority's mistake. Time to take the highroad sweetie and grow-up. Seriously.

Alex- I love you. I really do. You're the only likeable main character in this whole book. You had a hard struggle and came out on top, meaning that you appreciate the smaller happiness's in life. You're so sweet and caring, but mostly, you're not a stuck up prick like the rest of the male characters. And you're not a drunk either. Because you followed the law. Notice the past tense. Why? Because \*SPOILER ALERT!!!\* HE DIES! OF A BLOOD CLOT! Why, Moloney, why? Why'd you kill off the only likeable character in the book? I'm not happy. Not. Happy.

### **Summary**

To summaries, this book had very few positive aspects, and the few that it had, were too small to be really be worth it. Your final question may be, "then why give it two stars? Why not give it one if you hate it so much?" And I answer quite simply, "For Alex."

**Rest In Peace Alex. I love you as much as I can love a fictional character that I barely knew anything about. These two stars are for you.**

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### **April says**

I read this book for my Year 12 English class, and I will just say I was a little (albeit, a lot) disappointed. My teacher said that previous classes have loved reading it, but I didn't really. It's not the type of book I was expecting to have to read and analyse for Year 12, but, oh well.

I felt that the storyline and plot was good, with an important message, and it definitely had potential to be greater. The writing, however, did not really work for me. One of the reasons that makes a good book, for me, is that it needs to be written well, and this book just lacked that for me.

I don't know though, maybe the books that I normally read are different than expected for my class, but I didn't really enjoy this book all that much.

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### **Brionee Noonan says**

I read this book in one sitting. Loved it and hope a film is made one day.

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