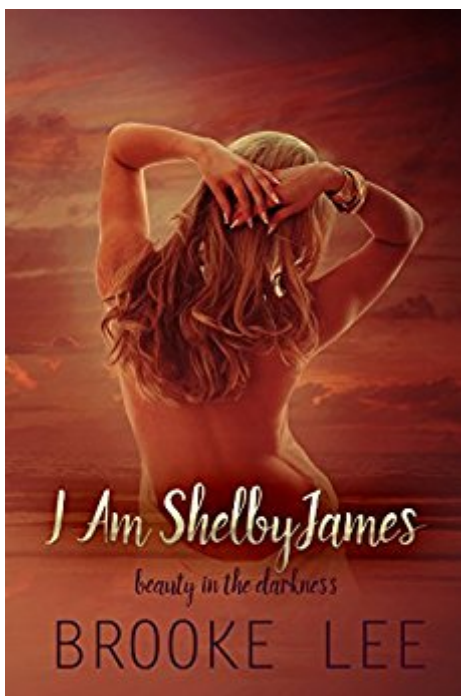


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# I Am Shelby James (Beauty In The Darkness Book 1)



## Synopsis

I am Shelby James - self-loathing poet and artist, daughter, sister, best friend, and bisexual commitment-phobe. My life has been a lackluster existence. The only constant bright spot in my life my best friend, my soul-mate, Veronica "Roni" Monroe. For years, I have given into my lust for both men and women, but now, at the age of thirty-two, I realize I need more than just a booty call. I need more. While on my search for "more", I find much more than I bargained for. This time, giving into my urges may destroy everything good in my life. Follow me on my journey to find my happiness. To find the real me. To find the beauty in the darkness.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Hard to believe this is a first time author! While this isn't my usual taste in books, I found the story to be original, well thought out and entertaining. The author uses ART as a character. Her story is well written and not predicable. Full of humor, intrigue and very, very steamy sex, I enjoyed her theory of love being omnipresent regardless of gender and very realistic. Brooke Lee's characters are lovable and believable and my opinion of them changed continually throughout the

story . . . that doesn't happen often but shows the depth of her characters. While I am not a big fan of F/F stories, I found myself moved by the very emotional sex scenes and non-traditional love stories. But her character Riley . . . well what can I say. . . he's amazing! Nicely done and cannot wait for more from Brooke Lee!

I Am ShelbyJames by Brooke Lee is this authors debut Novel and it is hard to believe that this is her first book. I think she did a wonderful job in developing her characters. Shelby James is trying to find herself and trying to find her own happiness. Brooke Lee took us on Shelby's journey to find happiness, love and satisfaction with her life. Brooke requested me to listen to her book. Which I do on my Fire Kindle she wanted to know if there were any errors to be caught by listening. And, I didn't hear anything that sounded out of the ordinary. But, what I did hear was how HOT this book is. I had to fan myself with my Kindle Fire a few times because I thought that both the Kindle and I were on Fire. Just kidding about everything being on fire. But, I Am ShelbyJames is spicy HOT so get ready! Now this book probably isn't for everyone there are quite a few sexual encounters in this book as well as some F/F scenes and a ménage a trois daydream that was smoking HOT! Brooke Lee incorporates her own poetry throughout this book and I have every one of her poems highlighted because they are so beautiful. I thoroughly enjoyed reading I Am ShelbyJames and I look forward to reading more from Brooke Lee. I think she proved to herself that she can write a book. I received a complimentary copy of I Am ShelbyJames for an honest review and I give this smoking HOT book 5 stars. I will be buying this book for my collection as soon as it is released because I do believe she deserves a verified purchase stamped by on this review.

This is one hell of a book from a new author. Not only does it do a beautiful job of tackling the hard subject of bisexuality (which very few authors touch) it takes on a roller-coaster of emotions that leaving you laughing, crying, throwing the book across the room, reaching for BOB and finally with that all important happiness and joy that comes from the ending of a great book. I personally can't wait for more from this author if this is her first showing then it's only going to get better.

This is my first LGBTQ read. As I always do, I approached it with an open mind. It sparked my interest quickly. By the end of chapter 4, I knew I was going to love this story, and I was right. It just got better and better as I got to know each character. Shelby has moments of insecurity. Don't we all?! She makes the brave choice to give in to her desires and have a tryst with her best friend. Best

friend isn't a strong enough title to describe the bond Shelby shares with Roni. After years of being propositioned, Roni finally says yes one night, while drunk. They both enjoy their night of pleasure (as did I), and the friendship appears unharmed. A girls day finds Shelby and Roni shopping. In a sweet twist of fate, the girls meet guys who were friends, although not in recent contact. Riley and Shelby hit it off immediately. They decide to take things slowly. Well, she decides and he decides he wants her enough to take it at her pace. Their attempts at self restraint were quite fun to follow. I was amazed at her self control! Riley is the perfect mix of good looks, intelligence, humor and gentleness. He seemed at times to begin showing his dominance, in a very subtle way. I'll be interested to see if I'm correct about that in the sequel I'm praying will follow. Shelby isn't sure if she will have to pick between Riley and Roni. A past love had expected her to turn her back on her sexuality and not be with women. Shelby wondered if Riley would expect her to make that same choice. Holding back with Roni threatens to strain Shelby's relationship with her BFF. But, nobody throws away 20+ years of friendship and love without talking it out. The women are able to understand each other better and their friendship appears to survive this change in status. Brooke Lee shined bright in her debut novel. A bonus for the reader is several beautiful examples of Brooke's poetry. The characters are well developed. The story flows beautifully. It's romantic, yet not overly sweet. There is just enough drama to keep it interesting, but not angst filled. I found it hard to put down, and I definitely will read future installments in this series.

\*review copy gifted by author\* Good God! What an emotional, yet completely satisfying ride! I think I love Shelby. ;) And, I think I love Riley. This is not my normal genre to read. Erotica is "over my head" but I have to say that I was hooked from page 1. This book has every shade of emotion and a few I didn't know could be brought through the pages of a book. Shelby James is a broken girl who is looking for love, even if she doesn't see that at first. Her best friend Roni is always there for her and not let me tel you... those two are really hot together. They're the perfect balance. They both get to love, laugh and love, each other but them their lives take a turn to the men in their lives. That doesn't stop the love these two share. Nope. If nothing else it makes it grow in a different way. Riley, Shelby's hunky man (who I winged to choke a few times, I mean, he's a man, he deserved it!) is a man that every woman wants. He's caring, attentive and very, very sweet! I truly loved this story, even if it was out of my normal comfort zone. I have Brooke to thank for that. She teased me with a blurb I could not say no too!

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