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winter reading 2005-6

tional even right-wing conservatives would approve, as long as they don't know they're reading about a gay couple. He supports the family, while his partner is a live-at-home Dad who takes care of their 6-year-old son, DJ.

and the debates about marriage, matching tattoos and finally a 10-year anniversary party begin in earnest. Savage is at his best as he deconstructs commonly held beliefs, such as "our societal belief that a marriage is only

I expected to laugh.

And while the book has some laugh-out-loud moments, they were too few and too far between

Actually, the stories in which DJ is the central figure are the funniest. DJ opposes gay marriage, because he thinks boys can't marry boys and that it's icky. One particular scene in a motel in South Dakota involving diaper rash and DJ howling "Don't touch my butt, Daddy, my buttock hurts" is hysterical.

Things pick up significantly once they return home after the family get-together,

a success if it ends with one person dying." A pre-death parting, no matter how amicable or wise, is seen as a failed marriage.

Ultimately, *The Commitment* is entertaining. But the subject is too mundane to make it truly gripping. The debate about whether or not to get married is common, and the points of discussion so universal it feels like we've all heard it before. — *Melissa Bearns*

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