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From the bestselling author of *Man and Boy* and *Man and Wife* comes the charming story of a widower who doesn't believe you get a second chance at love. Full of biting social commentary and overwhelming emotion, *One for My Baby* is a warm and witty novel of love, family, sex, and Tai Chi.

Returning to London from Hong Kong after a brief, idyllic marriage ends in tragedy, Alfie Budd finds his world collapsing. Believing his chance for love has passed, he takes comfort in fleeting affairs with his students at Churchill's Language School while watching his parents' marriage, his grandmother's health, and his career ambitions rapidly deteriorate. But then Alfie meets two people who help him to start healing: the old Chinese man he sees practicing Tai Chi in the park every morning and a single mother who needs Alfie's help in completing her education. Soon, our bereft widower is learning much more than Tai Chi and falling for one student above all others. But can Alfie give up meaningless sex for a meaningful relationship? And how much room in our hearts do we really have for love?

One for My Baby Details

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From Reader Review One for My Baby for online ebook

Thomas Strömquist says

"Following the death of his wife , the main character Alfie returns home to England after a period of living and working i Hong Kong. Struggling to come to grips with the loss, he finds that nothing is the same at home either. Being convinced that you only get one chance at happiness he throw himself into a succession of meaningless relationships and omne night stands with the students at the school where he teaches. Parsons at his best brings out characters that actually feels true with flaws, insecurities and egotistical motives as well as being kind, sacrificing and decent people, instead of just one or the other."

Mandy says

Precis: The plot - a guy has it all, living in Hong Kong, married to a wonderful woman, his world falls apart when she dies, and he returns to the UK. Flails about a bit in depression, sleeps around, and then life takes a turn for the better.

I really enjoyed this book, despite it not being my kind of thing, and not really liking the end. I did not like the protagonist overmuch, but that was okay, as I was kept reading because of the characters that I did like - his students, his Mum, his Nan, George Chang, Rose... in fact, the three characters involved at the end, Alfie, Jackie and Plum are the three characters I didn't warm to at all, which explains why I didn't much like the end.

No, it is more than that - yes, I felt that I did not know Jackie and Plum very well, and both seemed in some way desperate, which is not an endearing trait, but the book ends shortly after a jump in time of over a year to the news that several issues are resolved, and that felt like a cheap gimmick to me.

Still, for some reason I had mistaken Tony Parsons in my mind with another male writer, whose book when I read it a couple of years ago turned out to be chick lit full of steriotypical women. At least I have found out my memory's lie, and would happily read another Parsons' book

Jon says

My favourite Tony Parsons book - written in a witty and engaging fashion

Lyazzat says

Was recommended to read this book.

Amazing fact is when you are reading and the story behind it something you might have experienced already. The story is taking part in one of my favourite city -London. And description of places here are amazing and familiar, something you know and been there.

Overall, the story is amazing. We love, we lose, and ... we gain something new but be ready to be able to open your heart to experience new feelings.

Also, I loved the way of description and passion of Frank Sinatra's music. Every time the song was described in the book, I was re-playing it in my memory.

Thank you or my friend for recommendation and lending me a book :)

Vanessa Teká? says

Najbolje u vezi ove knjige je to sto se završila. Mukotrpna prica bez nekih posebnih emocija sa iritantnim likovima.

Jedina pozitivna stvar u cijeloj prici je baka, nesebicna i ponosna starica, koja se suocava damski sa svim sto ju snadje i govori istinu o tome ko je kriv pa makar i ne bila na strani svog sina.

Gina Boyd says

I wonder how much Tony Parsons bases his characters on himself--his books always seem very personal.

This one is sweet without being saccharine, and still engaging and very fun. The characters are all very much present and well-formed--even the secondary ones. I liked Alfie although I couldn't get worked up enough to love him, but I did really love his Nan. She's the kind of person I'd like to be.

Parsons is very good at looking at family, and he made me think about my own as I was reading. I loved the Changs, of course, and their noisy closeness, and I was sad when the yonger Changs decided to move to the suburbs . . . but it was realistic that they'd leave their bad city neighborhood for the suburbs.

Parsons is also good at looking at loneliness, and come to think about it, that's a logical extension of looking at family, isn't it?

I don't own any Parsons, but I'd like to.

James says

For the most part pedestrian, relying on stereotypical characters and clichéd narrative – Tony Parson's mildly diverting novels certainly served a purpose in the late 1990's / early 2000's when they first starting coming out – giving permission and opening the door the perhaps previously non-book reading 30/40-something lads/men to read about and indulge in stories of other men and the various life dilemmas faced by the pre-millennial male in modern society, providing characters they could identify with and life choices they could relate to.

Ultimately though, these novels are uninspiring, verging on the lazy. After the success of 'Man & Boy' the following novels from Parsons essentially followed and relied on the same narrative template.

Whatever happened to the former 'enfants terrible' of the UK music press, who along with Julie Burchill

terrorised the staid, conservative and self-indulgent writings of their elder music journalist peers? Well I guess they grew up, like we all do – but maybe along the way some of that fire has certainly been lost, that attention grabbing and exciting music journalism became by comparison, utterly mundane in these generic ‘modern/contemporary’ novels. These novels by Tony Parsons, whilst largely proficient, lack excitement and inspiration – ultimately betraying all that early promise. Unless of course all that ‘kicking against the establishment’ was merely a pose, a pretension symptomatic of the time and perhaps rooted in an underlying and cynical careerist agenda all along – who knows?

Whilst Parson was initially kicking against the establishment back in the late 1970’s, he then quite decidedly became the establishment – an inevitable transition perhaps, but such a ‘revolt into style’ doesn’t necessarily have to equate to such a literary decline. Where Parsons once had so much to say, there now seems so little to be told. Parsons is now reportedly a staunch supporter of the UK Conservative Party and now apparently rails against people having tattoos...need I say more?

There is in the end, nothing particularly bad about these novels – they are proficient and mildly diverting, but they do lack any real excitement, seem bereft of inspiration and are – ultimately disposable.

John Bowen says

One for my baby

This just elbows out 'Man and Boy' for me.

Here Parson's asks, does anyone really get a second shot at finding love?

Shamelessly sentimental, which would be a knock if it didn't work so effectively, Parsons not so much pulls at your heart strings as feeds 'em into a diabolical loom of his own construction and practically makes sweater out of them.

There so much to love here, so many wonderful characters and great wonderfully constructed moments, one that really gets to the heart of why there really is someone for everyone out there.

And should you catch me with my eyes looking a bit pink? It just my hay-fever, man, just my hay-fever...

- John Bowen is the author of 'Where the Dead Walk' and 'Vessel'. You can find him here on GoodReads, and his published work at Amazon.

Windi Hastuti says

Tony Parson sangat pandai dalam menuangkan cerita dalam setiap kalimat, bikin penasaran. Membaca buku ini, sama aja belajar menggapai mimpi, bagaimana mempertahankan hidup dan cinta. Menjelajah setiap

ruang-ruang yang disajikan Tony Parson membuat kita semakin betah berlama-lama membaca.

Ria says

First book i read by this author, it was brilliant.

Full of humour, sadness, real life situations and emotions that touch us all.

A great read.

Judy Mann says

I'm getting really irritated with this book. Actually I've finished getting irritated with it because I 'm not going to finish it. This guy-Tony Parson's a good writer. So why does he use so much trickery and it's the kind of trickery that is just plain annoying. In the very beginning he tells us his wife - who he loved enormously- has died.

Okay Tony- so how'd she die?

Fair question, no?

No apparently not. He keeps us guessing until I feel like some kind of gossipy fishwife- because all I want to know - is how did this broad die?

So he keeps referring to how he lost everything when he lost her but he won't tell us HOW SHE BLOODY DIED.

Why not? because ... because... I'm guessing it's some fancy literary doodad-some kind of classy convention, to keep us guessing but it's a royal pain in the ass.

When he finally alludes to her actual death- he still won't elaborate-it's all so classy and understated that finally I just found this book and this style, like I said- a royal pain in the ass.

Good luck. But it ain't for me.

You have a story to tell- you tell it. You don't play with your reader and manipulate reactions like that.

Thats just plain stupid. Your readers are smarter than that. JM

Kristina says

Not read, but I won't finish it. I just didn't like it so I quit on page 106.

Josephine Hagan says

Good book, easy to read, funny, poignant. After reading the blurb, I wasn't sure if I would like it, but I enjoyed this.

Syndi says

DNF.

I thought this book is a romantic kind of book. So when I start reading it, it is a romantic book. About finding love at the first sight, the unlucky one and the clueless one. But the more i read the more confuse I become. It seems this book is also about cross culture between west and east.

I try and try to keep going. But I give up. I do not feel THAT chemical connection with the writing style. Hence I can not feel any connection at all with the characters.

Mari says

Similar to Man and Boy but maybe better. These books are like candy and you can't put them down. To me that's a sign of a good author.
