



# Four

*Andy Jones*

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One weekend towards the end of summer, charged on drink and lust and love and disappointment, two couples exchange partners for a single night. But the repercussions will last a great deal longer. Told from the perspectives of all four characters, FOUR is a book about love, secrets, friendship and fidelity. A story full of dilemmas, deceits and twists that will keep you guessing until the final page.

### PRAISE FOR ANDY JONES

'Touching, funny, and real' - Jane Costello on THE TWO OF US

I'm always wary about comparing books but, just this once, I'm going to make an exception because for me this is one of those few novels that deserves to be mentioned in the same breath as ONE DAY. It has everything you could want from a romcom and then some' - The Sun on THE TROUBLE WITH HENRY AND ZOE

## Four Details

Date : Published July 26th 2018 by Hodder & Stoughton

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Author : Andy Jones

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## From Reader Review Four for online ebook

### Getter says

Adult fiction is the genre I don't always gravitate towards. I guess it's because the books end up making me feel heavier and not necessarily better. But at the same time, those negative emotions, are exactly why Four is among my favourite reads of this year.

Four people, two couples, one night. It reads like a movie poster, and it could be a really good movie as well. It is a multiple POV book, where we get all four voices and while one is especially awful (while being well written), the other three are easy to root for. I was having a really hard time not rooting for them, and it felt like cheating, when the end used such methods to define their relationship.

All in all, Four is a great read and a really special one! I'm glad I picked up this cover, bought this book for its cover, and trusted my instincts. Because sometimes, it just works out so well!

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### Kate Henderson says

Lucky enough to read an early proof of this before it comes out later this month (July 2018)

I've got to say that I liked this book more as it went along. At times it felt incredibly real and true to life whereas at other times it felt really far fetched.

My fav character was Sally and felt myself tearing up during her chapters in her job as a doctor. They were incredibly heartfelt and wish there was more of it!

I'm not sure if it's just me, but I definitely preferred the female characters within the book instead of the blokes. Just couldn't warm to them.

This book isn't really hugely plot based but is mainly about character development and how this one thing has effected each of the central character

Overall I did enjoy this book, but would have liked it to be a bit more 'deep' I felt like it was just skimming the surface at times.

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### Jo Barton says

This is one of those stories which begins in such a way that you can't help but think it's not going to work out well. Sally and Al have been married for seven years and when they go away for a weekend in Brighton with their shared friend, Mike and his new girlfriend, Faye, all is set for a drink and drug fuelled weekend. When lust for each other's partners rears its ugly head, there is so much to lose and it seems, not much to be gained from swapping bed partners for a night.

Four felt like a very modern story, peopled with characters who work in high stress occupations and who like to relax at the weekend, however, this foursome are about to find out, to their cost, that for any action, however superficial it may seem in the cold light of day, or drink and drug fuelled night, there are always going to be consequences.

At the beginning I wasn't too sure about any of the characters, in fact, I didn't like any of them very much but after a while, as they started to become more familiar, I began to care about what happened to them and hoped that everything would work out in the way they wanted it to do.

Four is a thought provoking novel which beautifully observes the vagaries of people. It's about the struggle to maintain a failing relationship when couples seem to want different things, and it's also about the lure of a tantalising temptation, which at first seems like a gift that can't be turned down, but which, on reflection, could so easily herald a downfall.

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### **Evie Braithwaite says**

Four begins with three old friends, all nearly in their forties, travelling by train to Brighton to meet Mike's girlfriend Faye, an actress who is still in her prime. After watching her provocative theatre performance, the group spend the remainder of their night in a rented house, keeping themselves entertained with never have I ever. Charged on drink, drugs, and desire, events blur and the couples wind up exchanging partners for a night. **A night which would inevitably have life-long repercussions.**

The last book I read was a dull one. So, I was craving a scandalous novel full of drama and deceit to sink my teeth into. Four did not disappoint. After this one reckless night, Jones takes us on a winding path of dilemmas, disappointment and desire.

The multiple perspectives of the four characters interweave seamlessly, each revealing their individual desires and backgrounds, some of which have the potential to make or break relationships. Jones immaculately depicts feelings of awkwardness, guilt and regret as the weeks after that hasty night slowly pass by. All four characters have their flaws, and I warmed to all but one – Alistair. He seems like the multifaceted man who thinks he can sweet-talk anyone into doing what he desires, be it business or sex. Not a man I could bear to be around.

Nonetheless, the story built up to an unforeseen ending and despite its slow beginning, Four is the perfect read for someone who loves **dynamic characters and modern-day relationship scandals**. It would make an interesting episode of Jeremy Kyle that's for sure.

Thanks to NetGalley and Hodder & Stoughton for providing me with an e-ARC in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Aimee Walker Editorial says**

‘In the time they've known each other, Sally, Al and Mike have shared - well, almost everything. As the three old friends sit on a train heading towards Brighton to meet Faye, little do they know that after this weekend, the four of them will have shared . . . everything.’

After a run of thrillers recently Four was just what I needed – a refreshing change. Four is the story of an

eventful night and it's resulting consequences; told from a multi POV we get to see the aftermath from all perspectives. The characters are convincingly flawed but likeable and the relationships between them are well developed and compelling. It was the characterisation that I love the most about this novel. It was well written, there were no cliches or predictable tropes. I'd happily read Andy Jones again but don't think I'll ever play a game of 'never have I ever' again!

Thanks to NetGalley and Hodder & Stoughton for this e copy in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Rachel Gilbey says**

Have you ever considered having a foursome or partner swapping?

This is the story of Sally and Al who are married, that are best friends with Mike who is going out with Faye who is considerably younger than they are.

On the groups first meeting with Faye, with rather too much alcohol and drugs taken, there is an idea that they would swap partners for the night.

What follows is a story from all perspectives looking into how the various relationships and group dynamics change.

I was slightly disappointed that the main sex of the book was predominately behind closed doors, but apart from that I really enjoyed seeing the aftermath of their hedonistic night!

I was completely absorbed by the story, and really wasn't sure what the final outcomes would be, but thoroughly enjoyed finding out.

Thank you to Netgalley and Hodder & Stoughton for this copy which I have reviewed honestly and voluntarily.

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### **Amy Rowland says**

Brilliant, gripped from the first page.

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### **Nina says**

I wouldn't call this novel "trashy", but it's a bit of all and nothing. The plot is very sensationalist, with dramatic characters and overly-complicated love triangles that are never resolved. It was entertaining for the most part, and a nice, easy read for the end of the year, but nothing particularly special.

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## **Angela says**

An intimate story of three friends when a new lady joins to make the foursome. We are first introduced to Sally, a GP, who is married to Alistair. Their marriage is taking a bit of a battering and they are attending marriage counselling in an effort to save their marriage. We then meet Mike who has recently divorced and has a little girl who has emigrated with her mother. He used to be at university with Sally and were a little more intimate than Alistair knows about, and also now works with Alistair. Faye is a young actress and is introduced by Mike to Sally and Alistair after she has just performed a part as a naked schoolgirl on stage. Faye is flirtatious and after an evening of drink, drugs and a dare game called 'never have I ever', the couples swap and end up sleeping together.

The main theme of the book is the analysis of what that one reckless night has done to each of them individually and as couples. Then, about half way through the book, there is an unexpected twist which has further connotations.

I found the book to be well written and delved deeply into areas I'd not thought about. It felt realistic and the characters were all believable. There was tension throughout because of the embarrassment felt by each of them in the cold light of day. It was refreshing to read a male author's viewpoint of some very intimate and emotional situations and I will certainly look out for more by Andy Jones.

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## **Nicola Smith says**

I read and enjoyed a previous book by Andy Jones, *Girl 99*, so when I saw he had a new book coming out with such an engaging cover, I was immediately tempted. The cover is very clever and hints at some of the conflicts contained in the pages within.

I thought *Four* got off to a fairly slow start. The main action takes place very early on, but there's also quite a bit of scene-setting and introduction to the characters. I did keep getting the two couples muddled up (perhaps this was prescient given what was about to take place!). But what that slow start did was draw me into the action bit by bit until I was thoroughly engrossed in what the two couples were doing and feeling.

Those two couples are Sally and Alistair, married for seven years, together for ten, and Mike and Faye whose relationship is very new. But Sally and Mike have known each other since university and have shared more than just a friendship over the years, and Mike and Alistair work together. So things are complicated when the three friends set off to see Faye in a play in Brighton. A game of *Never Have I Ever* leads to far more than any of them could have anticipated, and the consequences are potentially far-reaching.

I thought *Four* was a very intelligent piece of writing about relationships, feelings, regrets and life's complications. Andy Jones completely hits the spot and has written such an emotive and thoughtful story. His ability to write about flawed characters and difficult situations is something that I saw in *Girl 99* too. I was able to immerse myself in the individual predicaments of each character in *Four* and see it from all sides and although none of the characters comes out unscathed, I thought the conclusion was fitting.

*Four* perfectly portrays the dynamics between friends, lovers and rivals. The characterisations are so well-drawn that I felt like I was on the rollercoaster of emotions with them. I got to the end of the book and felt satisfied. It's such a human story and I found myself caring about what happened to the characters and

wondering how on earth matters could be resolved.

Give it a go. After all, as the characters say a lot during that fateful night in Brighton, 'you only regret the things you don't do' and you'll definitely regret not reading Four.

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### **Anastasia Wolfe (Ramblings Of An Awkward Anastasia) says**

Sally and Al's marriage is slowly but surely crumbling away. The gap seems to get even wider with time. With an invident involving a close friend and old flame Mike and his new, younger partner, sends them plummeting into unknown territory.

The writer has done an incredible job with this book. I love how the book is written with every characters feeling and perspective involved in the book. The book instantly draws you in to the life of all the characters and you feel like you really truly know them to an inch.

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### **marlin1 says**

I love Andy Jones novels.

I think his just gets people and relationships. This one sucks you right in, read over two reading sessions.

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### **Reece says**

After a start in which I wasn't sure this my type of book, it got really interesting. The story unfolded, allowing me to get to know each of the characters and their complex relationships with each other. Friends and more from Uni, Sally and Mike kept their relationship secret. Al is Mike's best friend and Sally's husband. When Faye, Mike's girlfriend meets the other two, events occur during a weekend in Brighton that will impact all their lives forever.

A very sad story from all their points of view, and very well told and easy to read.

I really enjoyed reading this. Will be following the author from now on.

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### **Magdalena says**

Four is an engaging and intelligent, modern read. Andy Jones wrote a thought-provoking story of complex relationships and consequences and repercussions of choices and decisions we make.

Sally, Al and Mike, four old friends, and Faye, newly introduced to the mix, are all complex and intriguing characters. Those four people and their individual stories and also the story of their friendship, the fall out resulting from one night of recklessness, kept my interest throughout and really made me think how much we can sometimes underestimate the possible outcomes of our actions.

Andy Jones wrote an absolutely fascinating story. Story that's captivating and complex and still has me thinking.

Recommended!

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## Kate says

I started this book one night (well, technically early morning), when I couldn't sleep. Hoping that reading would send me back off to sleep, I actually found myself having read through half of it by the time I would normally wake up.

"Four" tells the story of Mike, Al and Sally; they have all been friends for a long time; Sally and Al have been married for seven years, and Sally was best friends with Mike whilst they were at university together. Now in their thirties, the three of them travel to Brighton to meet Faye, Mike's new girlfriend who is in her twenties and an actress. Following a performance by Faye in her latest play, the four friends stay in a rented house together, drinking and taking drugs. It is this night that then changes all of their lives. As the reader, we get to hear from each character, learning their take on what happened, and the repercussions of it.

Having not read anything by Jones before, I wasn't sure what to expect when I first came to this novel. What surprised me was, given the subject matter at hand, how well he wrote each character; there were times during each of their narrations that I found myself thinking that their psychology was spot on. It sounds silly, but each character felt very real to me; I think part of this was because of how Jones handled the night in question. Rather than using gratuitous detail, he concentrates instead on smaller details; which of the men 'finishes' first, and how they think about this. The awkwardness, regret and trepidation of each character is perfectly explored. The progression of the tale seems almost inevitable when you begin to realise where it is heading, but I have to admit that the ending came as somewhat of a surprise to me.

This novel would be perfect for someone who enjoys exploring the psychology and dynamics of relationships. It is not a novel that necessarily has a happy ending - and I think this would apply regardless of how Jones had decided to bring it to its conclusion - rather, this is a novel that unfolds before you. Even though the plotline will be out of many peoples' experience, the way the characters think about themselves, and their various relationships should see times when you can fully relate to them; their fears, their hopes, their reckless desires. I would definitely recommend this book.

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