



A Ring and a Promise

Devon Rhodes

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Careers in military service are never easy on relationships—even less so when both lovers are in different branches...and both are men.

Naval Academy graduation now under their belts, Cary Barrientos knows the reality of the upcoming separation from his roommate of the past four years. Owen is more to him than just his best friend—he is the one person Cary can see spending his life with.

Owen Marsh knew that when he became Cary's lover, the day would come when he would have to walk away. Now that day has come, and he's having a hard time convincing himself that it's just sex between them. Even with DADT repealed, there is no way a Marine and a Navy flier can be together. He's just being realistic not expecting more.

When Cary switches their Academy rings, hoping Owen won't notice, he makes a vow—he will do whatever he has to do, including believing enough for the both of them, to make their unlikely relationship stand the test of time. But when his Marine is called up for duty overseas, can a piece of jewellery and a promise be enough to get them through?

Reader Advisory: This story has been previously released as part of the His Hero anthology by Total-E-Bound

A Ring and a Promise Details

Date : Published February 13th 2012 by Total-E-Bound Publishing

ISBN : 9780857158796

Author : Devon Rhodes

Format : ebook 59 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, War, Military Fiction, Contemporary

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From Reader Review A Ring and a Promise for online ebook

Leaundra says

4.5 stars.. I loved them both and I totally get the whole military thing and how tough it can be to be separated from the one you love. My husband is retired army and I'm a retired army wife ;-) I know for them it's even a bigger challenge . They were hot and sweet together.

Mandy*reads obsessively* says

Two young cadets are now moving on into their respective branches of the military and careers and despite DADT being repealed are reluctant to acknowledge their relationship.

Cary is far more aware of how he feels and more open to moving their friends with benefits into a real long term relationship despite the difficulties.

Owen is a bit more reticent and it takes him a while to know how he feels, and of course I suffered with Cary while Owen was working it out for himself.

This story was so sweet and I know I will reread it eventually just for ending!

Morgana says

A sweet story that put a smile on my face. I especially loved the tender moments *sigh* Just beautiful. I hope the author writes a sequel. Would love to read it!

My rating: **very close to 5 stars**

Note to self: *A Ring and a Promise* has also been published as part of the *His Hero* anthology, the copy of which I own.

Candice says

Very good story with both the MCs in the military and hiding their relationship. I just wish it was longer and could have had a more in depth story about these two.

~☆~Dœni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

4.5 stars

I'm updating my rating/review because last night I read *A Ring and a Vow* in the *Semper Fidelis* anthology:

A Ring and a Vow is essentially an epilogue to *A Ring and a Promise*, and my only complaint about this story was the uncertain ending.

Well, color me uncertain no more!

I didn't even know a sequel to this story existed. But it does, and everyone needs to know about it!

If you read this story, make sure to read the sequel, which is insanely romantic and sweet, and provides perfect closure.

All the ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ for these hot men in uniform and their forever love!

Original review posted January 30, 2015:

This was a surprisingly well-developed story considering its short length.

I felt the love and connection between Owen and Cary. There were plenty of sexy scenes, and that last scene with vocal Owen just begging for it was crazy hot.

However, the ending, while sadly realistic, was deeply unsatisfying.

Jewel says

I admit to getting a bit teary when the scene the title refers to happened. *sniff*

Ami says

3.5 stars

I read this as part of His Hero Anthology however, since the title will also be released separately, I prefer to put down my opinion on the single title page here in Goodreads.

I think the idea of the two MCs as men in uniform from different branches as interesting. As the story goes, I find it tender and sweet (but not TOO sweet :p). Both men have different characteristic. Cary, the Navy officer, is more honest about his feeling towards Owen, his Marine lover. He knows that Owen is still reserved about 'defining' their relationship, but Cary knows that he loves Owen -- the part where he switches his Academy ring with Owen shows that. While Owen, he is more careful ... he is not comfortable of moving forward, even if he knows that his feeling towards Cary is stronger than anything he ever feels before.

The story moves a bit fast, it started with them graduating before they are separated to different stations. Then they meet in between, until that day when Owen is called up for station duty in Middle East. For one, I don't mind it ... because it IS their life. Being officers from different branches meaning that they are in separation most of the time, and I prefer to read about when they DO meet this time. That "twist" when Owen telling Cary that he is being shipped out, where at first I thought that Owen will do the stupid thing (SPOILER: (view spoiler)), just puts smile on my face.

Lasha says

4.5 stars, rounded to 5.

I read this in the *His Hero* anthology put out by Total E Bound. It was my favorite story in the book. Two hot, young Midshipmen in love...great plot, characterizations and emotional depth. I would love to read a sequel!

Ruthie Taylor says

I received a free copy of this book to read and review for Wicked Reads

This short story is delicious. Two men who are destined to be military men, but also clearly destined to be together. Sadly, now they have been commissioned their service will keep them stationed apart. The story delves into a difficult issue for any couple, especially for a single sex couple. For all that it is short, a lot of development in the story takes place. The chemistry is clearly there, so I can't wait to see what happens next.

Serena Yates says

What a beautiful story! It is a great mix between the 'rough and tough' kind of love two military men might share and some extremely tender and intimate moments that were far more romantic than I had expected. As sweet as those moments are, they are never unrealistic. Control of their feelings is so engrained in these guys that deviating from what they had to practice for years while in training together doesn't even change once they are stationed separately and can only meet very occasionally.

Carey, the Navy guy, knows and admits he is in love with Owen almost from the start. He is the one who pursues his roommate until they become more, he is the one who comes up with this incredibly romantic idea of switching their rings. Interestingly, this doesn't make him a sap, he is simply more honest with himself.

Owen is a tough Marine, inside and out. I think he is in love long before he admits it, and, not knowing what to do with those feelings at first, he lets his concern for Carey guide his actions. At least, that is what he calls it. Once he does figure out what is what, his response to the exchanged rings, years later, brought tears to my eyes.

This is a wonderful, contemporary story that shows the reality of military life, even in times after the DADT

repeal. The heroes are very much in love, but it is the kind of enduring emotion that makes me hope they really will get their happy-ever-after one day. If you like men in uniform showing their feelings, if you want realistic love without syrupy sweetness but are not willing to compromise on the romance, and if you don't mind shedding tear or two when they finally fully connect, you will like this story as much as I did.

NOTE: This book was provided by Total-E-Bound for the purpose of a review on QMO Books.

Cory says

I'm on a military kick and this fit right in. I really enjoyed it and I'm immediately going to start *A Ring and a Vow*!

Sammy Goode says

A RING AND A PROMISE centers on the clandestine love life of two military men, Cary and Owen—not only are they military but in different branches—making the possibility of their being deployed or stationed together a rare and almost non-existent event!

Cary is the first to come to the realization that he is in love with his best friend, with Owen coming round much more slowly. This short novella really centers on a span of years—and their brief, hot sexual encounters that occur with rare frequency. As they spend more and more time apart they realize how much they mean to each other.

I really enjoyed this story—the tenderness—the growing respect and need for each other was so carefully mapped out by the author. Even though this was a short novella—it packed an incredible emotional punch—one that left me on the edge of my seat to see if these two men could make a relationship work. Distance, the military taboo against same sex relationships and their own insecurities gave an edge to the story that kept it from tipping over into just a sappy, sex-filled romp.

The characters were well drawn and so very likeable. The glimpses of their families was a nice touch—it lent an air of familiarity to these men—a “realness” that really allowed them to take up a place in your heart.

Devon Rhodes offers up a sweet story of love that overcomes a great deal of obstacles in order to find its way home. I highly recommend *A Ring and a Promise*!

adrienne says

<http://mmgoodbookreviews.wordpress.co...>

This quick read begins when Owen and Cary graduate from the Naval Academy, with Cary entering the Navy as a pilot, and Owen becoming a Marine. The young men had been roommates and friends throughout

their Academy years, only becoming lovers in their last year of school. While Cary hopes to continue their relationship, Owen is more self-contained and Cary all but loses hope for their future together. *A Ring and A Promise* follows Cary and Owen for several years, and offers small glimpses into their lives, both together and individually. A sweet, heartfelt read that neatly avoids being overly sappy despite occasionally high emotional content.

Gigi says

This is an awesome comfort read for me. I love my military boys and this is the story of two recruit roommates who became fuck buddies for two years. When they graduate, MC Cary, leaving for the Navel Academy to become a pilot, has fallen in love with MC Owen, leaving for Marine boot camp and several tours of duty overseas. How can a relationship *possibly* work? And how does Owen even feel? Read this delicious, romantic, sexy shortie to find out.

Highly recommended!

Can also be read in the His Hero Anthology, which has lots of other goodies in it for cop/military/firefighter lovers!

Simone says

Goosebumps alert!

You can probably blame *Top Gun* for my love of everything military-related (God, I don't even know how often I have watched this movie...) and of course I love books with a military background, too, so I jumped at the chance to get this little short story when it popped up on one of my friend's updates.

Although there is no action in this book – military or otherwise – I enjoyed it immensely. *A Ring And A Promise* deals with the situation of two gay soldiers, Cary and Owen, who have a friends-with-benefits relationship since Academy and even though 'Don't Ask Don't Tell' is officially repealed, it is still hard for soldiers on active duty to be out and proud. To top it all off, there is always the possibility of years of separation due to different postings in other parts of the world and worse... So getting a chance on their Hea is a fight of a different sort.

If you love hot -while at the same time- cute short stories that give you all the warm and fuzzy feelings and make you even tear up a bit (at least, me), read this book!!!
