



## One Marriage and Three Weddings

*Jenna Hilary Sinclair*

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Although Harry Sanderson has lived on a ranch in northern New Mexico with Mike Pruitt for many years, he still doesn't know how to describe their relationship—even to himself. Are they live-in lovers? Partners? Boyfriends? There isn't a word to adequately describe their mutual devotion and his quiet, deeply held feelings for Mike. Mike is no help. He thinks that what they share is a marriage, but Harry knows better. Weddings aren't for the likes of men like them... until a gay bar, missing lube, and a drag queen show him that he might be wrong.

## One Marriage and Three Weddings Details

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# From Reader Review One Marriage and Three Weddings for online ebook

## Elisa Rolle says

I remember with pleasure the first story I read by Jenna Hilary Sinclair. It was not a romance, it was a coming of age story about a teenager who had some real big trouble when he found out he was gay in a small town USA where he was pretty isolated, and about his mother, who wanted so much to help his son. To help these two arrived like two Angels on a Christmas day, Harry and Mike. The time were the late '80 and Harry and Mike were not some out and proud gay men who fight against society. They were two ordinary men that after spending years trying to ignore what they were feeling for each other, decided to take the courage in hand and move together in a ranch just outside the small town. It's true that it's not always easy to be gay in a little town, but sometime it can be easier than in the big city. The period, almost 20 years ago, is not the same as today. If today we are speaking of gay rights and equality, 20 years ago it was almost a miracle to find a place where being allow to be yourself. In the little town where they live, Harry and Mike are on the mouth of everyone, but everyone also knows that they are gentle men, always ready to give an hand to help; the town decided that, since the two of them are pretty much on their own, it doesn't matter what they are doing inside their home. It's not acceptance, it's more turning a blind eye on what you don't want to see.

For 8 years it was enough and then, Harry is starting to think, at their age, it's really necessary to desire something more? To Harry, living most of the time on the ranch, with his horses, it's not a punishment, it's almost the perfect life. He knows that Mike was used to something different, he was more a city man, he went in places and met people, but now he is with Harry, and he took him 12 years to decide to be with Harry and only Harry, and why he should need something more? I don't know if it's a conscious choice, but I have the feeling that Harry prefers to be like an hermit with Mike on the ranch since he fears that, if Mike will have the chance to see what there is outside, how the world is changing, maybe he will change his mind as well, and living only with Harry will be no more enough. On the other hand, maybe Mike is thinking that he is a comfort choice for Harry, that Harry has never had the chance to see something different, to try and taste every shade of life.

And so both Harry than Mike, like two newborn babies to the gay world, starts to shyly "come" out, at the young age of 40/45 years old, to see how the world is changing, how it's possible for them to be together in public, in a pub, even if it's a very secluded "only for men" pub, in an almost abandoned side of the city. Harry and Mike come out from their isolation to see that yes, the world has the chance to be better, but that, in the end, they already have what the other men are trying to reach, an happy life together, a commitment that will last and it's lasting for years, the comfort to know that the really important people in your life accept and love you, unconditionally. There is no need for Harry and Mike to come out, to change what they are, they are already out and proud for the people who really care, they have already found the path to happiness.

Jenna Hilary Sinclair confirm her ability to write a warm and simple story, a story that is near to the fundamental things in life, love, family, home and happiness.

<http://elisa-rolle.livejournal.com/72...>

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### **Stacey Jo says**

This was a sweet love story about an older, established couple that is very well written. It's not mushy, nor is it very explicit. It is very clear though that Harry and Mike are very much in love with each other. There is a lot of introspection here, with Harry in how he sees his relationship with Mike and how he thinks others see their relationship. The supporting characters are well done. I really do agree with the other reviewers in feeling that something was missing. This would have been a good instance to use some flashbacks to give a few more glimpses into their past. It would be nice to have known a little more about them. Overall though, a very sweet book.

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### **Lois - Who Reads says**

No angst, no drama; just a quiet story of two men who love each other and have made a life together. They are that rough on the outside kind of guy that show their love by taking care of their families and those they love, the words just make them uncomfortable. This look into their lives take place in the early 1990s and at that point they have been together eight years and have known each other for twenty years. They may not be good at expressing their feelings with words, but they lived together in a marriage like relationship at a time in our history when that was still an unusual thing for most people to see.

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### **?♥? Michaelle ?♥? says**

4 Stars

Another pleasant surprise find.

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### **Alyosha says**

Calm and sincere story about an established couple. 3.5 stars

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### **Tara says**

This book was good, but had potential to be great. This is the story of Mike and Harry. They have known each other for 20 years and been together for 7 and this is just a reaffirmation of their relationship. It was sweet and thoughtful and nice to read about 2 guys who are solid in their relationship. So why only the 3 stars? It felt like I was missing something so much so that I stopped to check to see if this was maybe the second book in a series. (Which it turns out there is a prequel, although I'm not sure it will really answer the questions I have.) These two have a lot of history that seems to really inform who they are and the way they behave and we didn't get any of it. It is alluded to just enough that I felt like I should have started at the beginning.

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## Lily says

This was a wonderful story about two normal everyday men loving and supporting each other. Harry and Mike have known each other for over 20 years and for the last 7 they've lived together. They are friends, lovers and partners but even after all their time together Harry still has issues with their relationship as far as how others might view it. This reticence to be totally 'out and proud' is a trait that Mike doesn't share yet totally respects. Pretty much set in his ways at this stage in his life Harry will nevertheless discover that it's never too late to learn and grow.

The relationship between Harry and Mike is well written and interesting. Both characters are well developed and the love and care between them is clear without being mushy. I loved how Harry's view of both himself and his relationship with Mike became clear to him by the end of the story.

*Damn, but it was a good life they had going here. They hadn't ever had any wedding and never would, but somehow or other, when Harry hadn't been looking, it turned out that they'd been married for years.*

The supporting characters are wonderful additions to the story and I liked the relationship between Mike, Harry and Mike's son, Neil. There is so much of Harry and Mike's early life together that's hinted at in the book that it left me wishing the book had been longer and more detailed. Perhaps I'll get lucky and a prequel will be written, I'd definitely love to read more about these guys.

One Marriage and Three Weddings is an extremely well written and engaging story. It has great characters, a nice plot that flows well and a wonderful ending. I would recommend this book for anyone looking to read an entertaining and sweet tale of love.

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## Suze says

Told by Harry, in a distinctive cowboy drawl, this is the story of Harry and Mike, mostly based in the early 90's. A 3.5\* read for me, definitely a story that grows as you read it.

I thought that maybe there was an earlier book about these two as there was a lot of references to a 20 year history, fights, marriages, deaths, split families - all of which sounded like a damn good angst story.

Anyway, Harry's history (mostly hinted at) has meant that he is fighting shy of being gay, preferring to stay on the ranch with his....Mike - he can't even call him his boyfriend. On one trip, they happen upon a gay bar in Amarillo which becomes a centre point for change in their lives over a couple of years.

It is a quaint tale, with most of the drama happening in Harry's head. He does loosen up, even coming to enjoy the three 'weddings', though it is the acceptance of their own solid relationship (the marriage of the title) for both men, that is the story.

13.5.15 Reread : still very much Harry's journey to accepting who he is, who he and Mike are and his feelings for Mike.

8.8.18 reread : still a good story but what I want most is the story of how they got there! Harry has obviously worked hard to accept being gay and struggles to be comfortable in company other than Mike's, even in a gay bar. Mike must have more experience of life as a gay man but even so has had a tough route.

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### **Sadonna says**

I've been a fan of Jenna Hilary Sinclair since I read Admit One. I love the authenticity of the voices of her characters. I first read about Mike and Harry in the Christmas short story, Gifts of the Season, which I really liked. Mike Pruitt and Harry Sanderson have known each other for 20 years. They have lived together the last 8 of those years on their ranch in New Mexico. This story arc takes place over several months in 1990-91 and encompasses several important landmark events in their lives. The real theme of this story I think is what marriage means and what it looks like in its different forms. There is the wedding of Mike's son Neal to his fiance Courtney. Harry is extremely uncomfortable about attending the wedding with Mike even though Courtney and Neal really want him there. He does not like "judgment" passed on him and Mike and their relationship. Even he doesn't know how to define it and he thinks it will be a distraction that the kids don't need. They come to visit Mike and Harry on the ranch and make it clear that they intend for Mike and Harry to be part of their lives and their children's lives. When there is a surprise and the wedding takes on a whole new twist, Harry is glad that he is there to witness it. When they make a third visit to the gay bar in Amarillo they discovered by accident the year before, Ronny and Chris, a couple that they had seen there each time, have a promise ceremony in front of the bar crowd. Their promises really hit home with Harry and Mike and they both know that what they have really is a marriage - minus a ceremony and rings - but with promises just the same.

This story is easy and flowing and very much in the vernacular of the characters. Mike and Harry are characters, not caricatures. They clearly belong to each other and nothing will change that. We learn quite a lot of their histories through Harry's musings on their lives and their pasts. I really hope that we might get another story about these guys that maybe gives us an in depth look at how they came to be together after all those years.

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### **Ami says**

*Got you. Ain't letting you go. Got you for a long time.*

*"Light of my life"*

Reading this and checking the author's livejournal made me think that this story either started as a fan fiction for *Brokeback Mountain* or at least an homage to Jack and Ennis. Because when I read it, I couldn't help to think that the story felt so *Jack-and-Ennis* like or how I imagined Jack and Ennis would be if they ended up being together after all these years.

It was wonderful still, homage or not. I thought the author was able to translate those beautiful feelings of true love between two men, who were the best of friends, the best of partners, and practically married in all sense of the word without having to go through a wedding. Even if Harry wasn't comfortable about 'embracing the queer' or dance in public or even saying the vows. But I knew he would do anything for Mike. And I loved that Mike understood Harry very well.

It was very romantic, even if the story started down the road -- meaning that in this story, Harry and Mike

had been together for several years. We got glimpses about what their life was before and this was the life after. For me personally, it felt better this way because somehow, I presumed that the men were 'doing it' behind their wives' back and that would not sit well for me.

The wedding scene between the two guys in the gay bar -- well, the wedding vow at least, made me teary eyed a little bit.

*"I, Ronald Henry Suarez, do take you, Christopher Thomas Woodson, to be my constant friend, before these witnesses, forsaking all others. Whether in good times or in bad, I will cherish you for as long as we both draw breath."*

\*sniff\*

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### **JenMcJ says**

Very well written and emotional story centered on two men who have made a life together one day at a time. Not a lot of graphic sex in this story but it is a love story that doesn't really need it to propel the connection along. It is done well in a different way.

I would love to see more of Harry and Mike and get more info in the backstory that is alluded to throughout this tale. With 20+ years together and 7 as a couple, as the voyeuristic reader that I am, I would like a front row seat to those years.

I need to go find other books written by JH Sinclair and see if they are as well written and emotionally charged as this short one was.

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### **Shaz says**

3.5 stars actually. Just can't rate it up to 4 though.

It took me a while to get into this one. And considering it's a relatively short story that was a bit of an issue. By the time the characters were starting to grow on me the book was finished. So, while it was a nice read, it just didn't quite get there for me. (It could have something to do with the way they were speaking, because that did grate a little to be honest).

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### **Ng says**

3.75 stars

Mike and Harry in their own words have known each other and have been together for a long time.

*Mike leaned over to whisper, "Twenty years less one month, you and me."*

*Harry whispered back, "Only eight years really together."*

This is a mellow romance, where both the MCs have been together and can complete each other's thoughts

and sentences. Despite being a short book, it gives enough to let the readers know that they both are older and have faced a lot before they got together. Makes one want to know more about them and how they got together.

The book ends in a wedding and on the note that what the MCs have is a marriage despite not having a wedding ceremony.

*"I, Ronald Henry Suarez, do take you, Christopher Thomas Woodson, to be my constant friend, before these witnesses, forsaking all others. Whether in good times or in bad, I will cherish you for as long as we both draw breath."*

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### **Sara says**

It's not often I read a romance with an established relationship in the center of it, but this story has one, and it's quite enjoyable to read about long-lasting, long-loving individuals now and then. Love and romance has more to it than the newly in love feeling. In particular I liked how Harry, one of the main characters and the character whose POV the reader gets to follow, put it, you've got to want togetherness in order to make it work, and I completely agree. Sometimes it's not enough, but unless you're actually striving for togetherness, for making it work in the long run, willing to compromise and fight when the tougher times strike, a love relationship doesn't have a snowballs chance in hell to make it past that first high of being in love.

This story about Harry and his partner, Mike, since many years is about that love. It's set in the early 1990's. Both men are, I believe, in their forties; Mike has a grown son who is about to get married and Harry refuses to come to the wedding, afraid to make a spectacle and an embarrassment of himself and his relationship with Mike. with tiny glimpses Sinclair gives away pieces to the men's past history, both of them together and what went on while each was on his own. Over a few events Harry slowly begins to see what a marriage is, and that although he and Mike has never had and never will have a wedding; what they do have is indeed a marriage.

It's sweet, it's lovely, it's romantic, and best of all it has a realistic and genuine feeling to it, the plot as well as it's characters. When I first begun buying m/m romances Sinclair's story Admit One was one of the first I bought, and what I liked about that was it's realistic feel; One Marriage and Three Weddings has this same realistic feel to it. It could happen to real people, it might have happened to real living people, or it will in the future. So, yes, I liked it very much.

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### **Sarah says**

This isn't your typical mm romance in that it follows an established couple over the course of about a year. The character are well rounded and not without flaws but fit together perfectly. Harry is the main voice that you hear throughout the book as it deals with issues that he never thought of until his partners son is getting married. He likes their insulated life's away from the world and the story shows him grow as a person.

I would have loved to have read more about how they got together which the book hints at but doesn't show. However this does not detract from the story.

I would highly recommend this to someone that isn't looking for angst.

