



Still

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What happens when two men who have been together for seventeen years fall out of love? Sivan Cruz, a set director in San Francisco, and Walter Wainwright, a big shot Bay Area lawyer, find out the hard way. Walter loves Sivan with all his heart but rarely talks about it, and Sivan needs to hear the words. The language of the love they have shared for so long, that has enabled them to build a life together and raise two children, stops working. They become—still.

When Sivan asks for a divorce, Walter doesn't know how to say no. They separate, but while Sivan sees the relationship as over, Walter sees only a temporary setback. He has never lost his passion for Sivan and decides he has to say something before he ends up loving his husband in silence for the rest of his life.

Still Details

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From Reader Review Still for online ebook

Amy Lane says

Mary's craft continues to grow. The only person in love with Sivan in this narrative was Walter, and Sivan wasn't always right. Whereas an earlier character like Jory might have jumped into family situation with two feet, Sivan had a foot and a half out the door. The relationship was patched up vignette by vignette, and not in one fell crisis, and the feeling of middle age was skillfully done. This was a novella, so there were some moments of growth that were off page, but we could see the growth from on-screen moment to on-screen moment, which is a storyteller's best trick.

I loved this. It was sweet, and short, and it made me happy.

Deeze says

When I read the blurb for this I had such high hopes. The theme of a long term couple that have grown apart, and each thinking the other is no longer in love appeals to me.

Sadly this lacked the emotional connection I was hoping for. We never got to see Sivan and Walter as a couple. Oh we get to see the sexual attraction when they first get together, and we get a rushed intro to Walters two kids, but we never got to see them grow together. We certainly never saw them as a family. Instead we flash forward 17 years to the separation and from there its one long rambling back and forth he loves me he loves me not theme. Sivan has to be in the top 5 whiniest characters I've read. He really did nothing but whinge and whine the whole way through.

As if that wasn't bad enough, (view spoiler)

I expected the fairytale feel, this is a Mary Calmes after all, but I was just expecting a little more filler in between the "once upon a time" and the "lived happily ever after".

I thought I could push this from a 2.5 to a 3 but to be honest I can't say that I actually liked it. It really was just an OK read for me.

Macky says

I am and always will be a fan of Mary Calmes. Yes she has a formula. Yes most books follow it. Yes sometimes its eye rolling.... But you know what? **I DONT CARE**

I just love her men. The chemistry is always there, the sex sizzles and whatever happens between them there's always a happy ending. That suits me.

In this Sivan and Walter who've been together 17 years decide to divorce, well Sivan does...its obvious from

the word go Walters not a happy bunny about it so we witness his, the rest of the family and all their friends and colleagues and the rest of the worlds attempts to get Sivan to see what an arse he's being (and he is) until he finally convinces him that its all a load of nonsense (which it is) and come home where he belongs! Throw in a deranged nut job to really push that message home, and Bob's your uncle, Fanny's your aunt, we have a story that's totally exasperating and at times WTF! but still I adored Sivan and Walter and all the hooaha they generate. Go figure!

So there you go, another Mary tale that you're either going to gripe about or love. I'm all about the love. Lol! Joining my Calmes Keepers and staying there. ;)

Jenni Lea says

I didn't think I was gonna like this one.

Stupid me.

Lauraadriana says

Still is another one of those Mary Calmes where you start reading knowing EXACTLY what you're going to get, how the characters will be and how the story will develop from beginning to end, and despite the fact that it's all sometimes a little bit TOO familiar, it's also like the best Mac and Chesse with a side of SUPER SLUTTY Apple Pie...To quote the lovelyNikyta Mary Calmes' books are like comfort food.

Like I've said before, sometimes I am a bit put off by just how similar Mary's characters and story arcs are, but some of her stories just REALLY REALLY WORK for me though, this one was another one of those stories that I'll probably re-read a dozen times...Easy, romantic, funny, and SO SEXY...

Sivan and Walter have been married for 17 years, they've raised two children (from Walter's first marriage), and now in their middle age Sivan feels like what was between him and Walter has faded. He wants a divorce and Walter in his usual stoic way, accepts.

The problem is, that OBVIOUSLY Sivan and Walter are far from DONE with each other, but Sivan is TIRED of feeling like he is not needed or to being in second place to Walter's career, the kids now gone it's like he's alone in that house. So, he moves out and they start the divorce proceedings, but their lives are so woven together that they keep running into each other, as the months pass Sivan notices changes in Walter, he is outwardly possessive of Sivan, showing him how he misses him, it's like that spark that captured Sivan from that first time they made love 17 years ago is back, and maybe, just maybe they can recapture that passion and love they had for each other....But Sivan is STUBBORN and only perseverance and a lot of DEMONSTRATIONS of love from Walter will make him see that they are STILL who they used to be.

What more can I say? I LIKED IT! I REALLY DID. Easy read, like apple pie.

Mary Calmes can fail with me at times, but when she hits the spot. SHE HITS THE SPOT.

Elizabetta says

4.5 stars

Still opens with Walter and Sivan at a crucial point in their seventeen year relationship. As told from Sivan's POV, their marriage has fallen apart, it's just not working for him anymore. He and Walter have raised two kids, pursued two busy careers, and have somewhere along the way, lost that kindling spark. The luster has worn off; they've come to a 'stillness'. For Sivan, they are just going-through-the-moves and he's tired of being taken for granted, shunted to the side. It's an easily relatable conundrum -- how to thwart time and routine, how to keep that initial spark alive in a committed long-term relationship.

"Life is less about time and more about patterns... familiar interactions with people... you stop, realizing you're doing things because of comfort and convenience, not because you're in love. In that moment, you look across the room at the person in it up to their eyeballs with you, throw up your hands, and call it what it is... the end."

It's not just about that though. So much of it is about Walter and his aggressive, alpha persona. He's a brilliant, ambitious San Francisco attorney and he is relentless in pursuing a high-powered career that allows him to provide well for his family. These same qualities eventually alienate Sivan... he wants to be 'seen' again, but it's too late, there've been too many fights and too little meeting of the minds. He's weary of being the 'fixer' in this relationship.

After the initial chapter, the story moves back in time for a bit as we get a glimpse of Sivan and Walter's early relationship. This is where Calmes' story-telling really shines. She is a master of that early seduction. So splendiferously romantic and sensual, she spins out the cat and mouse pursuit and falling together of two people who simply Must. Have. Each. Other. These two guys who, in the beginning, aren't even terribly fond of each other (in fact, they have two years of butting heads, exchanging barbs, circling round and round) until suddenly, in a moment of kismet, they 'see' the other.

"... I had to think, and it was hard with him running his thumb over my lips, pressing his knee between my thighs, parting them... I knew his smile, the soft exhale of nervous breath, and the hungry clutch of his hands... I felt drugged, ravished, and there was only him with his heart beating in time with mine, his hands all over me and the heat rolling off him. Everything else went quiet, like it did whenever I was in Walter's arms."

The first few chapters of the story are by themselves, well worth the price of the book. Sivan and Walter can't get enough of each other; parched, they've have found the oasis in the desert. Their passion is thick and

palpable and the lust fairly wafts off the page. Hold on, we are in danger of serious Kindle meltdown here. Now,...back to the present...

Walter: big, ripped, confident, alpha-male, knows what he wants and he wants Sivan. Finally, facing divorce, he still and always will want Sivan. We feel for him, he is lost without his love. Sivan, charismatic and brilliant artist, does not make it easy; he's captivating, he's a bit of a brat, sharp witted and acerbic. What unfolds is Walter's patient scheming to get him back, seemingly against all odds... oh, but there is something very sexy about a tough, take-charge man, used to winning, who must now pull together all his wits to win back his lover. Can he win this one too?

What we don't get much of in *Still* is the middle part of the relationship — the building of a life together. We are left with the two ends: the passionate joining, and the split. The author is clearly more interested in the dynamic of the break-up and the tension it builds, and there is nothing overly dark or heavy here. Readers familiar with Mary Calmes' previous work may see a similarity in these characters to those in *Change of Heart*. That story of alpha-shifter Logan, and his reluctant mate, Jin, remains one of my favorite PNR romances. There, again, we have a fated love and unremitting wooing and pursuit. The connection between Walter and Sivan recalls something of that earlier book. Once more, this formula works well for Calmes — you can't help but fall in love with her characters, they have an undeniable chemistry.

While I found the writing in *Still* much tighter and more focused, I would have liked more story around the beginning of the relationship, and the story ending felt a bit rushed. Yet, I must give kudos to this author for representing sexy-over-40 so very well — we don't often get M/M romances about the 'after' of 'happily ever after'. Ms. Calmes has succeeded again in winning me over with her wicked talent for seduction and romance as I add another of her books to my favorites shelf.

For this review and much more, please visit: [The Blog of Sid Love](#)

A copy of this book was provided by the publisher/author in exchange for an honest review.

Emma Sea says

This was my last read for 2013, so Jory and Sam almost get a divorce was a nice nostalgic pick. 2.5, rounded up.

She's onto us with the peacoats, by the way. Endless topcoats, no peacoats.

**

I'm ludicrously excited about this book. Clearly no insta-love, and it's something different from an endless string of falling-in-lust-and-fucking-a-lot books I've been seeing this year.

SQUEE.

Nik says

Mary, Mary, Mary.

When I found out there was a new Mary Calmes book out:

Before I started reading:

After I started reading:

Walter:

Sivan:

By the end:

Susan says

2.5 stars...

"Mary, Mary...why you buggin'...?" - Run DMC

I am unapologetically a Mary Calmes fan. Duh.

But this book was just...BAD. I mean ALL over the place!

I had high-ish hopes. The blurb read like a bit of a stretch for Queen o' Fluff. If any blurb promises straight up heartache and angst, it was this one. So, I was curious. Could QoF pull it off?

Not one emotion...nilch...zipo. Not one heartstring tug. Dead inside. <-me.

The outline of the story is there: a couple (Sivan & Walter), together for 17 years, owning a house, raising children, building a home...realize that their love ran dry.

The actual book: a couple (Sivan & Walter), together for 17 years, who you don't ever really get to know, who have 100 friends and children, and children's fiances, and coworkers, and estranged family all getting involved in the breakup, decide they shouldn't be together, though they want to be together, and attempt to get back together. And this all is stuffed in a too-short, too-ambitious, too-crowded 190 pages.

(...oh yeah...throw in a random lunatic killer (I do not joke...this is Mary Calmes after all), a random family reconciliation after 20 years (I do not joke), and a random dinner with 6-degrees of separation the lawyer edition (I do not joke)...)<-none of which was necessary, all of which was so out of place, and for a second, I thought my kindle accidentally opened another book...)

I'd normally be annoyed.

But this is QoF...so, I'm just a 1/2 step below indifferent. Meh.

Oh, and not a Jory in the bunch. *shakes head*... a Calmes book w/o a Jory? No WONDER it didn't work...

AliciaJ says

Not one of my favorites of Mary's. The MC's split up in the beginning of the book for some reason that is never really explained, at least it didn't seem like it to me. It just felt like the whole conflict was manufactured, it didn't feel real at all. I didn't buy into their story and I was disappointed in the book. Of course they get back together, but again, it was a foregone conclusion so why did they split up in the first place when it didn't seem like anything really changed between them? I was confused and a bit bored.

I'm gonna pretend that this book didn't happen and go back to my favorite Calmes' book, Mine. Or maybe even read some Jory, who can always put me in a good mood.

BWT (Belen) says

Told in Sivan's single POV *Still* is a romance about an older, settled couple who aren't connecting anymore, so they separate and then work their way back together.

There's some miscommunication leading to the separation, and some tension introduced through a stalker side plot that only serves to drive the estranged couple back together.

I'll admit Sivan's cluelessness and Walter's stubbornness made this less enjoyable than I normally find a Mary Calmes story.

And though I love Tristan James, he did not knock it out of the park this time for me. He doesn't differentiate between the different character voices well, so I was quite often confused as to who was actually speaking, and his pacing in this felt off to me as well.

Overall I enjoy the story, and have read it multiple times, but it's one of those odd occurrences where I always remember this far more fondly than I actually experience it.

Heller says

It's no secret that I love reading stories from Mary Calmes and I've been waiting on this one.

Sivan Cruz and Walter Wainwright have been married for seventeen years. Their marriage hasn't seemed right to Sivan for quite a while now so he asks Walter for a divorce. We do a bit of a time jump to the past that helps establish how things began for these men. They'd been working together for two years and had just decided to see each other when Walter gets some horrible news. The past is glossed over quite a bit and we revisit it as Sivan thinks back on his marriage. We then we see how the separation is going as they are run into each other during the nine months they haven't been living together.

This is a very short story so things are pretty rushed. I really enjoyed reading about Sivan and Walter, there were a lot of tense angry moments when things break down. Lots of frustration as well since it seems that it's very much just a lack of communication at the heart of it all. I think that if we had a POV from Walter my rating would have jumped, I needed to know where his head was at in a few places.

While this satisfied my Calmes craving until the next story, I can't say it's one of my favorites mostly because the length demanded something fast and furious that left more gaps and questions that I would have liked to have answered.

Tina says

DNF I stopped reading at 30%. Sorry, I can't get into the story.

Pixie Mmgoodbookreviews says

4 Hearts

Review written for MM Good Book Reviews

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

Sivan only sees that the relationship he has been in for 17 years has become stagnant, deciding he has to let his husband go so Walter can find happiness he asks for a divorce and begins to build a new life. Walter has too much pride to say no when his husband asks him for a divorce, but he never truly lets go of the idea of getting Sivan back, but convincing Sivan that he truly does love him is hard to do when Sivan refuses to really listen to what Walter is saying.

This is a great story of a well-established older couple whose relationship has fallen into a rut and one of the men decides the solution is divorce. Sivan needs to be told he is loved and wanted, and because he isn't hearing the words he decides his relationship is over. Walter isn't one to share his feelings, instead he shows his love with actions, but when his husband asks for a divorce instead of fighting for the relationship he agrees to the divorce. Both men try to move on, but Walter never gives up hope that Sivan will be his again and when Sivan has problems with an ex-co-worker Walter swoops in to take advantage and convince Sivan of his love.

I really did enjoy this smooth story. Sivan is positive that because he isn't showed with constant love and affection that his marriage is over, but he really hasn't got a clue how Walter really feels and instead of talking about it he makes a decision for both of them thinking he knows what is best. Walter is a great character, he is more of the strong silent type who is there when you need a rock. Sivan reminded me of an older slightly calmed down version of *Jory* from the *A Matter of Time* series, he needs reassurance that he is loved and when he isn't reassured he acts thinking he knows best. Watching as Sivan finally comes around to the fact that he was all wrong is entertaining, seeing two men who have lost touch with each other open back up was really sweet and the sex they have is really steamy.

I have to recommend this to those that love drifting apart and reconnecting stories, rediscovering misplaced love, a touch of danger by a disgruntled ex-employee and a very happy ending.

Julio Genao says

Same Great Taste, New-Look Package!

This one features smexy heroes in the over-40 set, but otherwise it's got all the usual stuff, like the Canonical Calmes Chorus of Supporting Characters—only two of whom are children, this time—with the requisite number of sassy yet loyal personal secretaries, shouty-alpha tantrums, and hilarious hetero-normative hijinks of all kinds.

Another classic from the master, then, and it's great like it's always great: two irritatingly good-looking people making intensely stupid decisions based on plainly flawed logic and unreliable data, in defiance of the gods, the aggregate good-will of the aforementioned Chorus, and your fervent desires—with amazing fucking and a happily ever holy god I almost typed that all out.

Romance-crack, basically. Gimme Just One More Hit, Man, Just. One. More.

So, try it. It's delicious. Even if one of these *adonae* was so stubborn for so many pages I began to wish it had been *me* with the pyromaniacal window of opportunity.

A word about fucking.

You may insist that men cannot fuck one another in the ass without "preparation."

You may insist this because some people really do prefer bony fingers "scissoring" all up in it, and graduating from one-two-three-OKAYNOWCOCK.

But I must strenuously object, for once and for all, that an asshole is not made of play-doh; that when a man sticks his dick into your ass and fucks it in and out and ejaculates inside you and then pulls out, you are not then left with a cock-shaped orifice gaping slackly while his seed runs helplessly down your thighs like sex-diarrhea or love-menses or what-have-you.

An asshole is not a ~~vagina~~ flesh wound.

An asshole has something called the rectum—which has a sphincter—and it's pretty awesome.

Because the business end of it *closes*.

So when your lover finally erupts into your pillaged pleasure-passage with his torrential *two tablespoons* of yummy fuck-mayo, it's not going anywhere unless you want it to.

Unless you push it out yourself, y'see.

Rather like how your intestines don't *tumble out into the bowl* if you should happen to lose your focus during

a bowel movement.

Nothing goes in or out of your butthole without your assistance, barring rape, dysentery, or food poisoning—and I leave it to you to decide which of the three is worse.

Carry on.
