



## Not As Easy As It Looks

*Jaime Samms*

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Don Jenkins will do anything for a happy, thriving family and home. When he discovers that Griff McAllister, his life partner and love since high school, seems to be losing faith in him, he's at a loss for how to mend the relationship. Then Howard Campbell is added to the mix, a man Don and Griff both love beyond words, and jealousy and mistrust threaten not just their bond, but even Don's ability to keep his farm viable.

Nearly losing Howard in an accident serves as a wakeup call. They begin to pull their relationship out of the muck and work to remember why they came together in the first place. If they can figure out how to help one another and make sure each man gets what he needs, the trio might build the loving future they've dared to hope for. They have to be brave enough to commit every resource they can muster—especially trust, understanding, and acceptance—and realize true love is never as easy as it looks.

## Not As Easy As It Looks Details

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Author : Jaime Samms

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## From Reader Review Not As Easy As It Looks for online ebook

### Amber says

This book just didn't work for me at all. If it hadn't been a challenge book it would have ended up on my DNF pile. This book was just one big mess of flashbacks tangled up in a threesome relationship that just didn't seem to be there. Howe felt like a no show through most of the book as Dan and then Griff whined about how they wanted him. I never really felt the connection between these characters because I was too busy bouncing through time to pivotal points in the threes relationship. But unfortunately there isn't any real building of the relationships between Griff and Dan let alone Howe and the other two. To me spreading this threesome relationship over a decade where they don't manage to be together is unrealistic as well as the fact everyone family is A-ok with the threesome. I have no clue what the BDSM elements were even doing in this book since they were largely unexplored and just didn't fit with the theme of the book.

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### Connie says

Days after I've finished this book and I still don't know where to start with the review.

Words fail me, and even though I took notes while reading, right now they are all over the place and make no sense at all... so please bear with me.

The first thing that comes to mind when you think MMM is sex. Lots and lots of sex. I mean, if two boys can have that much fun together, imagine what can happen with three of them in the same room, right?

Right there, that's your first mistake. If you are planning on picking up this book, you will have to think again about polyamorous relationships. For these MCs nothing is about sex, well not until very late in the story anyway.

I felt a very powerful connection to these characters, on different levels, I recognized myself in Don's need for family, Cliff's protective instincts and Howard's fears of not being enough.

Their poly dynamic is different from any other MMM book I've read. It is all about their relationship and how to make it work, taking care of each man's needs, making sure they each get what they need out of their relationship.

It starts in a spontaneous way, more of a friend supporting another friend in a time of need. And after just one kiss, all three of them feel their world shift. They are not sure what to call it, or how to make it work, but Don and Cliff know that there is no way they can live without Howard in their lives.

All three of them are very unique characters, very special individuals. Don has a sense of family that cuts deep; he needs to belong to someone. His family is his rock, and he can only be happy if he is there to provide Cliff and Howie with that same safe environment. It might kill him in the way, he will fight demons he doesn't even know exist, and he will have to ask for help.

Cliff is the papa bear of the troupe, he will protect the men he loves with everything he has. Always strong and confident.

And Howie... he will start as their weakest link. The one that needs the most, the lonely one. It will take a

while for him to see that he fits, really fits with Don and Cliff.

Such an emotional, eye opening book. For me, their love, how they work to build a life where they can be open and sincere about their feelings. How they fight against the obstacles and stick together during the hard times.

Why not a 5\* you ask? Well, the one thing that didn't work for me was how the story was told. See, it goes back and forth from age 7 to age 27, telling their story with different scenes at different times in their lives. So, it got confusing, and a bit hard to keep the timeline straight.

Don't go looking for the dirty, it's mostly off page, right until the end. And boy, do we get a change of pace and a huge surprise there. The slow building to that moment is totally worth the wait, enjoy the ride.

Worth reading, if you enjoy the sub-genre. And if this is your first MMM, I can only say it's a great choice.

Reviewed for Gay List Book Reviews

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### **SheReadsALot says**

Not As Easy As It Looks by Jaime Samms is free for one hour! ('Til 10 Am Eastern - 11/9/14) #Tweetaway  
<http://t.co/8iszLqbKmE>

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Reviewed by Connie

To see more of this review and others like it please visit us at Gay List Book Reviews at [www.gaylistbookreviews.wordpress.com](http://www.gaylistbookreviews.wordpress.com)

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## **Caroline Brand says**

REVIEWED FOR PRISM BOOK ALLIANCE

I am a big fan of menage stories but often I find that the nitty gritty parts of the relationship are smoothed over and it all seems too easy. Not As Easy As It Looks is the exact opposite – it does what it says on the box as they say because the relationship between Don, Howard and Griff is anything but easy.

The story is set over a decade in the lives of these three men from when they are in high school and just figuring things out until the present day when really they are still figuring things out.

If life had been meant to be easy Don and Griff would have been together as teen sweethearts and that would have been the end of it but Don kissed Howard first and that changed the way things worked out. Although Griff and Don end up together Howard is always around and the three of them slip into an on again off again relationship. When Howard is left devastated and on his own Griff and Don are there to help pick up the pieces and in reality things were never going to go back to how they were.

There is jealousy in this book, there is a feeling that no one quite knows what their role is, there are hard times and not enough money and it all adds to the stress of their reality. I loved that there was acceptance from their families – it was as though they were expected to be together and everyone was unsettled when they weren't.

If you are going into this expecting a lot of sex between three men you will be disappointed. There is very mild BDSM but again it's more about the reality of how that works between the three of them than it is about gratification. You can't have two people doing something in a relationship of three!

There are a lot of flashbacks as the story unfolds and although they leave you feeling like you are jumping in and out they are necessary and they explain so much about where the men find themselves today.

Jaime Samms this was great! For whoever put it into the suggestion box on Prism...thank you!

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### **Mercedes says**

4.5 stars

Just the type of ménage story I like to read about: more about the relationship and characters than sex. Tired of reading ménage stories that end once the three MCs come together and get their HEA? This one will take you for a ride and help you explore the difficulties of making a ménage relationship work in the long term.

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### **CB says**

Sexy MC's and wonderful menage love story. The book jumps from present day back to when the boys all first met (age 12) but I found jumps fairly easy to follow (the names of all Don's family members were harder to keep track of!). The blurb makes it sound like Howe was added in as they were adults but he's actually been an on/off 3rd since the beginning and it's easy to see why he had issues committing with the family trauma and age/maturity. It was lovely to read a book where the families were accepting and was not part of the angst that made up the story.

Definitely going right onto my to-be-read-again shelf!

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### **Anita says**

What a pleasant switch - a menage where the sex is secondary to the story. A lovely tale told both in flashback when Howard, Griff and Don are teens and in present day. Got a little confused toward the end trying to differentiate between the two time periods but basically a character driven story about three guys and their families. Lots of angst and tragedy! I have to say that there were times I wanted to punch Howe (Howard) in the nose with his back and forth attitude. And I truly appreciated the acceptance of the family. I've read several menage books this month and invariably there is a family member who doesn't accept the relationship. But the very natural way that Don's and Griff's family handled things was a welcome change.

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## **Sandra says**

I picked this up as a freebie from DSP during one of their Tweet-aways, and boy, am I glad I did.

This was really, really good. The relationship dynamics, the flashbacks to their combined past, growing up together, figuring things out between them, all of it was well explored and made sense. Yes, this is an M/M/M menage story, but it's much more than just that. And if you're expecting a lot of time between the sheets from this, you'd be mistaken. The sexing is not described in minute detail, but every single scene has a purpose, and is never gratuitous.

Well done, Jaime Samms. This was fabulous! 4.5 stars.

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## **Pendragonish says**

Not my favorite Samms...the narrative gets away from her a little in spots. But I do like the poly dynamic.

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## **Debra says**

### **3.5 stars**

The story focuses on Griff, Howe and Don, from the time they are teenagers and covers about 10 years. Griff and Don are best friends from the time they meet in middle school. Howe is a year ahead of them and enters their lives in High School when he briefly dates Don. Throughout the years the men are together as friends, lovers and family. The relationships amongst them are very complex and the three men very different.

I loved the dynamics and the story, but the jumping back and forth at times took away from things for me a bit. There were points where I really wasn't sure where the relationship was at that given moment in time. I also would have liked to have more of the men actually together. The focus is on the emotional relationship between the men, with very little sex in the story, but there is some very light D/s play in the book. Otherwise it kept me engaged and made me care about the characters.

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## **K says**

Dreamspinner tweetaway 9.11.14

### **2.5 stars**

contemporary menage-ish story of three men who have grown up together in a small rural town and the difficulties in their relationship. Told in 3rd person by 2 of the MC's the present day narrative is dotted with random flashbacks from ages 12 to 27 showing some of the main points in their relationship. This though just made it confusing to read for me

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## Amy says

Great story!! I loved how the dynamic between the guys changed over time into what it was in the end, it just really seemed to work for them. The only complaint I had with the story was the switching between the past and present, sometimes it was hard to keep interest. I would have liked it better with it in chronological order, instead of back and forth.

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## Irina says

Four Stars! I'll give this story 4 stars although I am not really fond of flashback narration but I cannot but admit that the bits of past and present were so brilliantly woven to depict the story that it soon became one of the best aspects of the book.

Whenever I choose to read a mm menage I do it because I want to find out how the mc come together and merge as one, making their relationship work. It was no different for Griff and Don, who were best friends since they were 12 and Griff punched the school bully right in the face. What comes next is a beautiful friendship and later a blooming love (from Don because I'm sure Griff knew right from the start who he wanted). It takes some time and a summer affair with Howard, a laidback and flirting mechanic, for Don to realise that he wants Griff. They live together for ten years, all this time trying to coax Howe into their relationship when an accident forces Griff and Don to acknowledge that something, or someone, is missing from their lives. They are both nurturers and caring people, Griff being a real horse whisperer who heals broken animals, strays, just like Howe.

I liked the dynamics of this relation and I liked the acceptance and family values that both Griff and Don were surrounded with. I loved how open-minded and understanding their fathers were .....this is something so rare it seems unrealistic.

I loved Howe and I understood him completely with his need to reject and distance himself before letting the others reject him. It is his way of controlling what happens to him, thus making things hurt less. Oh, I understood completely his coping mechanisms and his reluctance to believe in any good for him after the harsh words Don said to him before their summer fallout. However, The author didn't quite manage to convince me how well the three of them worked together and completed each other.

Don't get me wrong, the book is beautifully written but it is the author who lifts the veil over those important scenes and moments from the past or present. You see and find only what the author wants. It's like a theatre play with one act after another and the curtain going up and down to reveal specific moments. I can't help but feel that I needed more when it came to Howe's place in their relationship dynamics. If their struggle to get together and dance around each other expands over ten years, their final admittance and surrender to the love they have for each other happens really quick and then it's the end.

And the only sex scene which is described in detail raises some questions, too. I didn't expect the revelation that Griff and Don Make in front of Howe. And what does this mean? That Don couldn't completely sexually surrender to Griff because Howe was his first experience and loved him? Since Don and Howe didn't go all the way, He couldn't do that with Griff?

As I said, the author just gives us brushes of the whole picture in a suggestive way and I think this is where her talent lies.

It was the first book I read written by Jaime Samms but I'll definitely read others, as well.

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## Wendy Ann says

Reviewed for Hearts On Fire Reviews - 4 hearts

For all the readers who have trouble with the concept of a ménage being viable in terms of having an ongoing relationship, this book is for you. You'll probably feel a bit vindicated in your belief as you witness the realistic struggle of these three guys. As the title suggests, there's nothing easy about the relationship between Don, Griff and Howard and the author puts all that doubt, jealousy, and raw emotion on full display.

The sequence of the story includes a lot of flashbacks. While I think this format was good in terms of providing quite a bit of backdrop in a short amount of space, I think it was also partly responsible for leading me to believe that this story was primarily about Don and Griff – that Howard/Howe really was more of a 3rd wheel. Don't get me wrong, this story really does focus on Don and Griff. I think it's the author's way of showcasing the struggle of becoming three; however, the timeline hopping seemed to skim over some of the time in which Howard was a more prominent figure in the mix.

One of the elements of the story that I loved was the unusual occupation of farming – it's hard work and a challenge in today's economy – the author did a great job of highlighting this. Additionally, I loved the strength of family that came through loud and clear, but also their vulnerabilities and flaws. And I especially loved one very precocious 4 (almost 5) year old boy who managed to make the big boys squirm a bit! Last, but not least, the little bit of dominance/submission that made its way into their sex life made for a hint of drama and definitely some spice.

So, after a little blood, sweat and possibly even a few tears, Don does end up with the happy thriving family he so desperately wanted (not only the one he was born into, but the one he made), and we readers had quite the journey watching it evolve. While the relationship may not have been easy to come by, it should be an easy decision to grab this book and enjoy watching a hard won battle reap rewards!

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