



One-Off

Lynn Galli

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How much would you endure for your best friend? Would you plan an elaborate event that you don't believe in? Put up with a woman you never wanted to see again? Fake enthusiasm for an unrealistic pipe dream? Skye MacKinnon is forced to answer these questions when she's asked to be her best friend's maid of honor. As a cynic, she rejects the notion of marital bliss, but for a friend, she'll give it her best effort. That becomes more difficult the moment she learns that her old college nemesis, Ainsley Baird, will be playing an important role in the wedding. Brilliant, beautiful Ainsley has many talents, chief among them is irritating Skye. Knowing how easily Ainsley pushes her buttons, Skye just hopes to get through the wedding without needing someone to post her bail.

One-Off Details

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Willow says

I would say this book is pretty good. My exact rating would be 4.5 stars. And why is that? Well, i liked the pace of the book until i reached the end. The characters are well constructed and i really laugh out loud with the interaction between Skye and Ainsley. They are really quite a pair XD.

But i didn't like the end. For me it seemed rush. For someone as cynical as Skye, rushing not only into a relationship, but also into a marriage like that...it didn't fit. And that's why i don't give the book the five stars that otherwise would have deserved.

hubsie says

Random: I walked into the lunchroom at work, wearing my glasses, and a co-worker stops dead in her tracks and says, "Do you wear glasses?" I stare at her and dead-pan, "What gave it away." She just continued to stare at me, unblinking.

Awkward.

Anyway, I then finished this book over lunch in my office. NOTEWORTHY QUOTE: "Something about the Scottish lilt made it sound like the words were cherished by the speaker before being spoken.....A Londoner could read the most romantic poem ever written and it wouldn't affect me more than an American doing the same. Give the poem to a Scot and I'd tremble like a Chihuahua." God I love Scottish accents, Scotland in general, and I fully agree with her assessment of the accent.. *swoooooon*

It was a good read, but had some skip-overs. There was way too much wedding planning detail that became tiresome. I did not much care for Colin or Dallas, and found it very unbelievable that Dallas would insist on other people to plan their entire to-the-tits dream wedding without any input from them. That would never happen to someone who plans her wedding since emerging from the womb.

(view spoiler)

I actually liked how much Ainsley and Skye got under each others' skin, the constant barbs, sarcasm and overall riling-up of one another. I liked that Ms. Galli strayed from the norm and didn't have a "past relationship" angle that the MC's revisit, but rather two personalities that hugely clashed in college. But the reason for their tumultuous past was glossed over. My interpretation is that Ainsley fell for Skye in college but never admitted it, never did anything about it, never communicated it, and used their clashes as a reason to dislike her. But she never explains herself later in the story.

Heat factor: Solid 4/5 for the one, way too short scene, that we readers had to wait for until 80% of the book was finished. Ms. Galli is great at the sex scenes, and this one was no exception, but I always enjoy it when authors weave sprinkles of intimacy throughout the story.

Bib says

An enjoyable read filled with witty dialogues.

Lexxi Kitty says

Not many books, lesbian fiction books specifically, tend to take place in my hometown. This one doesn't either but it is set in Washington DC, where I worked from 2002-2010 and the 2018-. I had to remind myself a little to often that it was set here as it seemed light on area detail (which is unfortunate as there are some rather nice things here that could have worked as a setting. They even visited some of those locations - just 'off page's).

Great book. Like the characters (less Dallas & Colin). Was planning to reread this book at some point and the brand new sequel pushed the reread forward faster than it might otherwise have occurred.

Joc says

This is a tough one for me to rate because there is so much I liked but also quite a bit that I didn't. Skye MacKinnon, an executive content editor at a news broadcaster, is badgered by her best friend, Dallas, to be her maid of honour at her wedding. Dallas and her co-host/fiance, Colin, get a big lead on a story they've been investigating for their show and rush off to follow it up leaving Skye to plan their wedding with Colin's best woman, Ainsley. There are so many problems with this for Skye, not least of which is her animosity for Ainsley who was her housemate 14 years previously.

I'll start with what I did like. I've read six books by Galli and enjoyed them all. I like the way she writes and love the dialogue between her characters. Skye and Ainsley had a lot of great dialogue and witty banter going for them. I was drawn into the story in spite of my dislike for the subject matter and thought the characters were a fantastic match.

On the downside, they took a really long time to get there. I don't mind slow-burn romances but I couldn't help feeling that there were a number of times that they could have made a teasing connection much earlier in the novel. I don't really get the planning of a wedding that seems more like an extravaganza than a celebration of love and so much of the book was spent on things that I see as completely pointless which made it difficult for me because that was the premise of the story. I liked that Skye was going to organise it come hell or high water because it was in her character to be a good with details and programming even though she herself didn't think much of weddings.

I wish Ainsley had been written with a little more of an accent. I had to keep reminding myself that she was Scottish because there wasn't enough in her speech to reflect it. While it didn't need as broad as this: *Whit's wi' this pronunciation of 'Sixth' as 'Sickth' wi' the TV people? Is this new? Have ah just missed it for nearly 40 years? It's drivin' me mental, they're all at it! Furthermore why dae ma ain Scots weans pronounce the letter H as 'Haitch' instead of 'Aitch'.*

A few more words that are uniquely Scottish would have helped.

My rating is probably at 3.5 stars but I'm going to round down and largely because of the wedding planning

theme.

Lex Kent says

I already wrote this review once but Goodreads ate it so ill make this quick... I loved this! This is the first book I have read by Galli, and I have no idea why I waited so long. Her writing is wonderful and the romance was sweet and believable. It was a slow building romance that truly showed the chemistry between the characters. And the one intimate scene the book had was pretty steamy.

This book does have a lot of wedding prep. At first I was worried I was going to be bored, but as I got into the story, the book flew by and I actually wished it was longer.

This is a great book to recommend for romance fans, as long as you don't despise weddings.

Diane says

An ok read! likable characters,nice love story,not as good as her previous books(minus 1 star)..but good storytelling

Arien says

4.2 stars. I liked it. It's one of those enemies to lovers books, probably the best one I've read so far using the theme. Their bickering is incredibly entertaining.

Both main leading ladies are well developed. I can't say I connected to either of them that deeply but it's also not like I didn't care for them. I was invested in their love/hate relationship and most of all it's entertaining as hell. The side characters were also great. From best friend Dallas to the little girl Poppy, it's a really memorable side cast.

Where the book could be better is its pacing. Their shenanigans got repetitive towards the end. They spend most of the book bickering (not building a relationship) and then (view spoiler) It's not terrible or anything but I feel it could be better paced than it is.

Overall a very charming read indeed.

Diane Wallace says

An ok read! likable characters,nice love story,not as good as her previous books(minus 1 star)..but good storytelling...

Heath says

Just reread this to prepare for the next book. Still loved it.

MJS says

I didn't like this one. I don't like weddings much more than Skye does, and there was just way too much wedding prep in this book. If you need a how to on getting a wedding planned quickly, then this is the book for you. Otherwise, you'll be bored, as I was.

As is the norm for Galli, this is told in first person, which means we get to know a lot about Skye, who is a great character, but not so much about Ainsley, who has a stick up her butt for the greater portion of the book in regards to Skye, and no real reason for why.

(view spoiler)

Our two leads do spend a lot of time together but most of it is spent bickering or not delving too far beneath the surface. So when they did get together I didn't really care. One-off is accurate, I won't read this one again.

Megzz says

4.5

Awesome.
Entertaining, exciting, and romantic. I didn't want it to end.

Farah says

This romantic tale joins a wedding planning, fun hen party, say yes to the dress-dress fitting, a wedding, Chapter 14 - a bookmark worthy chapter.

How amazing the hs are in their careers + wonderful characterizations + history, north pole meets north pole slow burn magnetic attraction, fantastic secondary characters.

When Ainsley's career separates them, take a listen to Spending My Time by Roxette, that song is quite perfect for such scene.

Dear Ms.Galli, Morgan needs a H.E.A too, she's a remarkable woman, mama, friend and florist.

This book is unavailable on KU & Scribd
Kindle price USD7.99
An A+ read :)

Tiff says

I adore this book. It made me laugh, smile, and best of all it pulled at my heart strings. I have read quite a few of Lynn Galli's novels, this one in my humble opinion is her best. It is amazing! I have read a plethora (love that word) of romance novels and this is absolutely one of the best.

Right from the start of the book you are thrown into the crazy world of wedding planning. The main character is the maid of honor, Skye, and while she is happy for the bride and groom, she is anti-wedding. WHAT! Our other main character is Ainsley. Ainsley just happens to be the groom's best woman and cousin. Small world is these two happened to be college roommates at Columbia, and are not exactly on best terms. Foes if you will.

Thanks to the fast paced world of news reporting, the bride and groom jet off in the middle of planning their wedding to catch a new story. Skye and Ainsley are left holding the bag and forced to spend copious amounts of time together planning the dream wedding of their friends. These two banter, like an old married couple. They are witty and terribly funny at the expense of the other's feelings. Their dislike for each other makes for a fascinating progression from animosity to love.

This is solid romance filled with humor, friendship and great storytelling. I wanted to start it again as soon as I finished. You will not be disappointed. One Off is fantastic.

Julia says

This was such a fun read. However... My review would've been quite different if I'd written it before reading the last chapter and the epilogue. I was so disappointed at most of the ending.

Don't get me wrong, I love romantic happy endings and all that stuff. But this bothered me a lot. Spoiler-free short version: things escalated very quickly. Like, *way* too quickly. I was looking forward to praising how nicely paced the story was, how the progress of their relationship felt natural and amazing to read, but my opinion on that does not apply to the last chapter.

Spoiler-y, longer version: (view spoiler)

So, excluding the ending, I pretty much loved everything else. The wedding planning stuff annoyed me at first but, even though I loved Dallas, I was glad when she and Colin left to pursue the news story and the plot focused on just Skye and Ainsley. I loved the stuff about Skye's job and all the criticism of the obnoxious conservative white men she had to deal with. Skye and Ainsley's dynamic was delightful, and so often I wanted to scream at Skye to stop thinking Ainsley hated her. I feel like the author could've done better with the explanations of why they hated each other in the first place back in college, but it was nice to see Skye slowly start to forget that herself as they got to know each other better.

Overall, as I said, this was a really fun read. I wish what happened at the ending hadn't felt so rushed, but I won't let it ruin how great all the rest of the book was.
