



Unexpected Family

Nate Tanner

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With a crappy job, an overstressed checkbook, and a ten-year-old son who's growing up entirely too fast, Will's lucky to find time to sleep - let alone socialize. So Will's more than pleased to make friends with another single dad - a handsome, soft-spoken contractor named Tom. But after their two sons turn out to be sworn enemies at school, things between them get complicated fast... and their growing feelings for each other sure aren't helping!

Will always knew being a single dad wouldn't be easy - but when two single dads fall in love with each other, troubles really start piling up. And to merge their two imperfect families into one, Will and Tom will have to push their relationship - and themselves - beyond limits they never thought possible.

Hard-edged and humorous, cynical and tender, this story of real love between real guys is Nate Tanner's first romance novel.

Unexpected Family Details

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Author : Nate Tanner

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From Reader Review Unexpected Family for online ebook

Melanie says

I was tempted at one point in this story to just leave it, I don't do well with religion in something I want for enjoyment. I kept going though.

After reading this it made me think about the ways in which I deal with my own 10 year old son. I'm thankful that I never have to deal with him thinking gay is bad. From being a small child whenever a topic about people kissing or getting married has been brought up I've always made sure to mention that boys kiss girls or boys and vise-versa.

I really enjoyed this read. It gave me a lot to think about.

Tonileg says

Contemporary Middle-aged M/M romance with two guys that find love when they had given up on the concept in this sweet romance with no explicit sexy scenes.

Will Rudbeck and Tom Salminen met running in the per-dawn freezing light in the middle of nowhere Minnesota. They start a friendship that turns to much much more as they get to know each other and we get to see some real and brutally honest looks into the father/son relationship with people that have had serious problems in their past like alcoholism, physical abuse and homelessness.

This was not a 'fun' story, but there are sweet funny moments between the tough issues of growing up and starting a new relationship and coming out to family in rural America.

Wonderful adventure to read about the small steps of dating after divorce while having children which is a mine field at best and World War three at worse. We witness the whole range in this well written M/M romance!

162 pages and kindle freebie

3 stars

John says

I quite liked this. It felt more genuine than a lot of M/M romance does because the romance happens in a context, and not *all* the tension in the story is wrapped up in the two adults engaged in the romance. Indeed, it really is as much about knitting together a family as it is about the pair of adults involved. That's refreshing. Also refreshing to me is we get the characters, particularly the narrator Will, warts and all. That give the book the feel that these really could be the-guys-down-the-street rather than another muscle-bound pair auditioning for the 21st Century Gay Kama Sutra.

Cindi says

1.5 stars

Definitely not for me.

Full review **full of spoilers** can be found at [On Top Down Under Book Reviews](#).

Jerry says

3.75 to 4 stars. A little preachy, but sweet. Both dads have pre-teen boys. Some swear words but no real sex is described. Slow friendship turned to love for the men. HFN finish with a promise of HEA. The story stops before they really become a family with two dads and how that relates to the kids school and the parents work. Some atheist/religious questioning mixed in. Nice warm feeling with strong moral overtones.

Nate Tanner writes gay porn from looking at ALL his other listed books, so this is kind of strange to find a book with NO explicit sex. Apparently the story came to him and he had to write it. I think he should write a sequel of how these four guys work hard to make a real family (and maybe have 1 scene between the dads?).

Tami says

[e.g. that Tom encouraged Will, a recovering alcoholic to drink - not cool in any situation! - if you know your

Louan says

Slow build, low to medium angst. The women in this book did not come off well, pretty much abandoning their children. My reason for docking a star.

Eperdu says

First off, I'm always appreciative when I get books for free. Second, I admire those who write and publish, whether I like the content or not. I know it's hard work and I love that they do it.

On to the book ... I'm not a fan. The accent portrayal drove me crazy. I used to live in MN and never heard anybody talk like that. I think when authors try to write an accent or speech pattern it's always so awkward. It kept knocking me out of the story. I also really did not like the constant "buddy" referrals. "Ya sure you betcha buddy!" I call my dog buddy or my friend buddy, I don't call my lover buddy and to persist in doing it and having both the characters do it. Not working for me. I also felt like the kids were portrayed as far too mature and educated for their age. I understand they are smart but this felt excessive and overused. You want to create characters that are believable and you want to keep people in the story.

You also want characters that people relate to--but they need to be likable. You can't give one single character every bad trait imaginable and expect people to like them. I ended up feeling utterly disgusted with Will. I wasn't supposed to feel that way through the book. I was supposed to (I assume) feel that way initially but start to see him redeem himself and become a better person. I don't see what Tom saw in him, I found him despicable and I also didn't like Tom because he was sitting up there on his high horse and preaching down at Will. He was too perfect. We had two characters that were on opposite ends and never truly met in the middle. Tom didn't make mistakes, he was always "right" and Will was always making mistakes and he was always "wrong." It's just not believable for me.

The story itself, great concept. I love these types of stories. I think it's a great way to tell a story but this just didn't work for me with these characters.

jules0623 says

3.5 stars. I liked this, but I do wish we hadn't skipped over so much of the development of the relationship from newly together to telling the kids. I liked that there was little sex and the story focused on the men as a couple, as dads, as well as showing the boys' relationship.

On the minus side, Tom encouraged an alcoholic to drink. I just... I have no words for this. What kind of person does this? And then he threw it back in Will's face! It seemed really OOC behaviour from someone who likes people who stand by their convictions.

Pati says

I was intrigued when I saw that Mr. Tanner wrote a romance. I've read and enjoyed some of his extreme smut/porn so had to give this a try since m/m romances are my favorites.

I must say that I am very glad that I did. These guys are real life people who have their good points and their bad points. I laughed in places, especially upon hearing one MC question why he wanted a kid. LOL! Haven't we all said that at one time or another?!.... okay yes, I've said it many times not just once or twice. I cried in other parts and in the end I was very glad that I read it and am now hoping that Mr. Tanner will write more stories like this one. I most definitely recommend this to anyone who enjoys seeing true to life people find their HEA.

Connie says

A friend told me to ignore the edit mistakes, so that's what I'm going to do ;)

I like a good story that deals with same sex couples that have kids and build a family.

In this case, the story line was a good one, the MCs were ok but there were a few things that bother me too much to *really* like this book.

The name calling. I get that parents sometimes can get frustrated with their kids, but that's not reason enough to call them brats, stupid, idiots or any other names.

There was also the guilt trips, the way Will tend to manipulate Andy, I didn't like it one bit.

And last but not least, there was not one term of endearment between these two men, who are supposed to be lovers and working to build a life together...they called each other *buddy*, really?

It was my first time reading Nate Tanner, and I understand that this is his first time writing romance. It was a decent book, but it failed in the "romance" side.

Funny enough, the author's speciality is erotica, and here explicit sex was also MIA.

So, overall a good book, but still needs some work.

***Danielle* says**

WILL RUDBECK

TOM SALMINEN

Read 19/10/18 | 3 stars

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*Book synopsis: With a crappy job, an overstressed checkbook, and a ten-year-old son who's growing up entirely too fast, Will's lucky to find time to sleep - let alone socialize. So Will's more than pleased to make friends with another single dad - a handsome, soft-spoken contractor named Tom. But after their two sons turn out to be sworn enemies at school, things between them get complicated fast... and their growing feelings for each other sure aren't helping!*

*Will always knew being a single dad wouldn't be easy - but when two single dads fall in love with each other, troubles really start piling up. And to merge their two imperfect families into one, Will and Tom will have to push their relationship - and themselves - beyond limits they never thought possible.*

*Hard-edged and humorous, cynical and tender, this story of real love between real guys is Nate Tanner's first romance novel.*

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**Mandapanda says**

3.5 stars. The story behind this novel made me curious to read it. The author usually only writes explicit gay erotica but apparently this tale was in his head and he decided to take a chance on writing a romance instead. It's a nice story about two single dads and their 10 year old boys becoming friends and finally falling in love and becoming a family. The guys - adults and kids - feel natural and real. I enjoyed their conversations and all the typical 'guy' things they got up to. There's not too much angst. There's not much sex either, just one brief and vaguely euphemistic description of the first time they get together. I think the author went a little too far from his previous style cause one proper sex scene wouldn't have hurt. But it's not too bad at all. Reminded me somewhat of Jeff Erno's writing style. Much better than I expected from the author of *Banged by My Buddies!* lol

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**Karen says**

Somehow this book had all the elements of what I thought would be a good story, but it just didn't come together for me. I just couldn't seem to develop any kind of empathy for the main characters and at times

found myself starting to dislike Will. At the end of it all, it's not even that I would necessarily call this a bad read, just one that didn't work for me.

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## **Romance says**

My issues

1. I do believe that there are gay men in Minnesota and I sure hope they don't speak with that accent though. Anything but sexy.
  2. These are real men. Hairy butts and all.
  3. Not a huge fan of men calling their children names. I'm sure there are men who call their children brats, that doesn't mean I have to like it.
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