



On Our Own Terms

Adelaide Hipwell

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A major celebrity. The girl next door. Can they make it work?

When Ned Smith shot to fame as one fourth of the world's biggest boyband, secrets and lies were a part of the deal. Fifteen years on, he's a successful songwriter in LA and his 4G days are supposed to be well and truly behind him. But about to turn thirty, Ned finds himself wracked with guilt. Will regrets continue to haunt him forever?

When the smart and beautiful Harriet Jones moves in next door, the attraction is as hot as the Australian summer she's left behind. But Ned's celebrity world spells trouble and Harriet runs scared, knowing her fragile heart can't take any more heartbreak. Can they each overcome their fears? Can they find a way to make it work? *On their own terms.*

A very contemporary romance, full of humour and heart, perfect for anyone who's ever wondered what happens to boybands when they're all grown up.

CAUTION: contains coarse language and sex scenes, unsuitable for minors

On Our Own Terms Details

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Author : Adelaide Hipwell

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From Reader Review On Our Own Terms for online ebook

Morpheus Reads says

On Our Own Terms by Adelaide Hipwell

Harriet Jones is in a slump after recently discovering her high school sweetheart/long-term boyfriend/fiance of two years has been schtupping his secretary, who is now several months pregnant and plans to marry the cheating rat. (Good luck with that, Mistress.) Harriet has sold her half of their joint business to him, and after that sale and good investments over the years, she really doesn't have to worry about money. She's decided to take some time to figure out what her next step will be and to give her heart a chance to heal. Her sister, Alice, convinces her to take a vacation, leave Sydney, Australia behind for a while, and visit her in Los Angeles, California, where she lives with her pro-basketball player husband.

While Harriet is settling down in her sister's pool house, unbeknownst to her, their next-door neighbor is none other than Ned Smith, a former member of the boy band called "4G", which had a huge presence on the music scene until the band broke up in order to allow the members to have more privacy in their lives and to pursue other interests. Ned has recently been in the tabloids after breaking up with a long-term girlfriend who is now accusing him of cheating on her. Her sob story is bogus, and Ned now realizes too late that she had probably always been with him only for her own personal gain. He, like Harriet, has a bruised ego, damaged self-esteem, and hesitancy to trust his own judgment when it comes to personal relationships.

The two of them meet under funny circumstances and after some mutual embarrassment, hit it off right away. They have a sweet relationship which seems to only be hindered by their own self doubt and outside sources relating to his fame, which they have to find a way to work through. This is an easy relationship to follow with very genuine people and low angst. They have a great circle of family and friends around them which adds a lot to the story.

There was a bit of a teaser about the beginning of a romance between a couple of their friends that will be the basis of Hipwell's next book. The author did a good job of letting us feel that these two were definitely an important part of the group without giving us much information about them, so I look forward to reading about this couple as well.

Chirpie says

I adored this book! Couldn't read it fast enough skipped meals and stayed up late because I just couldn't put it down! Ned and Hattie are so sweet and he is such a believable, honest character ... you just want them to get together and be happy ever after! I found the story of Ned and his ex-boy band really refreshing and believable, it was like a little window into what celebrity life must be like. This book was super funny in places too! But also serious at times, touching elegantly on issues of homophobia and mental health, always from a place of "we all deserve to be happy and loved". Ultimately this was an adorable love story, with some obstacles along the way, and you definitely wanted these two to get their happily ever after! I can see from some of the subplots and characters that there might be more to come in this series can't wait to read them! I agree with the reviewer who said they thought this would make a good movie. Hoping to see more Adelaide Hipwell in future! Thanks from a very happy reader!

Jenn Cunha says

Received an ARC from NetGalley for an honest review.

So I loved this premise. As a die-hard BlockHead and someone who dreams of the day NSYNC will reunite, this premise was like a dream come true. I just had a problem with the follow through. One, there were so many secondary characters that I couldn't keep them straight for the life of me. Two, the whole foreshadowing (i.e. - if only I knew what I was agreeing to) was annoying. It didn't happen much, but when it did it was very awkward. Three, it felt like Hipwell was trying to put too much into this one - her past with her ex, the band, the pets, the twins, the uni friends - I couldn't keep it all in my head.

Overall the premise was there and I was invested in seeing Ned and Harriet get together...but it just didn't quite gel.

LJT says

????On Our Own Terms is an entertaining debut book by new author Adelaide Hipwell. Ms. Hipwell's writing style is uncomplicated and the way she cares about her characters is quite meaningful. Each character has something good to offer, while working through the happenings in their day-to-day lives.

This is the love story between Harriet Jones, a super smart business woman, and Ned Smith, a famous singer from a now disbanded boy-band. Harriet has to get away from her life in Australia, and visiting her sister in Los Angeles is just what she needs to take her mind off things. Her business partner, who was also her fiancée, cheated on her and is now getting married and having a baby. Needless to say, selling her half of the business and getting out of dodge is the right decision. Harriet is financially secure, however, she loves to work and her creative side is beginning to open new doors. Ned lives next door to Harriet's sister and the minute they meet each other, there is an attraction that cannot be denied.

Ned loves music and the successful group he used to be a part of years ago. He did not like the paparazzi or keeping secrets about his band-mates, for the sake of appearances. With Harriet in his life he is able to get excited about his work, and writing music once again with his former band. Harriet and Ned are a hot couple and they fit together very well. However, being in the public eye is not something Harriet enjoys, which at times is a problem for them. Luckily, love is what keeps them together.

Overall, I liked this story. The characters are well-defined and easy to get to know. The plot is interesting and original. Harriet and Ned form a bond that is like no other, and I was cheering for them to end up together.

Complimentary copy provided by the publisher via NetGalley.

Monique says

Thanks to Romance Beckons and Netgalley for the opportunity to read this delightful debut novel. It seems

to have been planted quite deliberately in the "Romance" genre, but the author may be doing herself a disservice by categorising her work in this way. I know we're not supposed to consider Romance as being in any way inferior to any other category, but let's face it, some of the rubbish being published these days as "Romance" is decidedly inferior.

This, on the other hand, is quite superior and steps outside the romance category into regular-old fiction with its themes of marriage equality and LGBT rights, and the culture of celebrity. It found the characters to be believable and situations quite possible. There were no convenient coincidences and although I've never developed a successful app and earned buckets of money doing anything, I could imagine myself being in Harriet's shoes.

The story is told in chapters alternating between the first-person points-of-view of Harriet (an Australian fleeing to her sister in LA following an unforgivable deception by her rat of an ex-fiance) and Ned (British ex-boy-band member trying to carve out a life for himself next door to Hattie's sister). They meet by accident and hit it off straight away. The alternating POVs allow us to see things that the two protagonists don't see in themselves - they both have self image issues and the lovely thing about their relationship is that they help each other to see the good in themselves.

The prose is well-written and moves along at a steady pace. The characters are real people, even the superstars, and nobody is too good to be true. There's enough well-written sex scenes to keep an erotica fan happy, but these are incidental to the story, which is engaging and satisfying. There's also a hint that we may hear from more of this group of people in the future - there are other members of 4G who have yet to have their stories properly told.

I'd give this novel 4.5 stars if Netgalley allowed me to. I found Ned's voice a bit feminine some of the time, which is my only criticism. I thoroughly enjoyed this novel, which is a definite standout from some of the other Romance drivel on offer, and eagerly await her next offering.

Jeannie Zelos says

On Our Own Terms Adelaide Hipwell

Review from Jeannie Zelos book reviews

Genre: Romance,

I like second chance romance and rock band romance so this was a no brainer, and I expected to enjoy it. And I did, but it didn't quite have that magic spark I was hoping for that makes a five star read for me. Its a well deserved Four though and a story I was drawn into.

One of the things I really liked was that Harriet wasn't some poor downtrodden waitress/bar tender/shopworker living in squalid conditions etc. waiting to be rescued by the Hero, (they have their place of course but sometimes its good to read about other types). Nope, she was incredibly clever, and had made millions through the sale of her apps technology. Money doesn't bring happiness though and poor Harriet was devastated, gutted, had all her confidence sapped when her long time boyfriend and business partner is caught cheating....She leaves Australia and goes to stay for a while in LA with her sister and family, the

adorable twins, lovely husband and Bitch Face and Sour Puss the pets. Their next door neighbour is none other than grown up teen boy band sensation Ned.

I loved Ned, he was such a gorgeous man, very natural and down to earth. He was tired of all the promo stuff they went through, tired of the hype and the pressure that led to one of the band members to attempt suicide and his feelings of guilt for not doing more. The guys from 4G are still close friends though, and we see all of them here in this book, see them grown up, pursuing other things but those teen pressures still affect them all. Ned's attracted to Harriet instantly (I LOVED their meeting where one of the twins was...well, read it!!), but oddly though they are both successful people they each think they're not good enough for the other – its that old thing that haunts many of us, confidence, do we have what's needed, can that special someone really want to be with us, when they are surrounded by people more successful, more intelligent, more handsome/beautiful, thinner/better body....nearly everyone has hang-ups about themselves somewhere, and sometimes they play on our minds too much.

They spend more and more time together, we see more of Harriet's and her sister's friends and the rest of 4G, and its a fun read. Usual spats with the media – they so annoy me the way they haunt celebrities, intrude on their privacy, but sadly those images sell and that's why people suffer – why do people want to see private pictures, believe all the lies....? Still, it provides some great plots for the book, and adds that touch of realism that I so need. I really liked Ned and Harriet, thought they were perfect for each other, but they seemed to have not only their own inner voices to overcome but outside pressures too.

Its a story I really enjoyed, and I loved the way the band used their celebrity and the things that had happened to them to support a much needed cause. I spoke about realism earlier – that part felt very genuine, and sadly I can imagine just that happening today. I feel for some of the young celebrities around, surrounded by those who just want to make money from them and aren't at all concerned about them as people, about their welfare or health. This part of the plot was all too real but Adelaide turns it to the good in the end.

Overall there's a fabulous blend of romance and humour here with some wonderful one liners and snark, and I really want to read more from Adelaide. Its an excellent start for her writing career with this first novel.

Stars: Four, a terrific first book.

ARC supplied by Netgalley and publishers

If you enjoyed my review I'd love it if you would please click "Like" and if you didn't I'd love to know why, so I can make future reviews more helpful.

Kelly says

Let me just say it. You can't judge a book by it's cover. If I had only looked at the cover I would have thought this was another 50 Shades, but it's definitely not. Yes it's a love story, but not your typical poor girl meets the rich guy story line. I actually liked that Harriet was her own woman with a career and money who wasn't looking for Prince Charming to take care of her. When she meets Ned they bring each other to life again. I think we all kind of need that --someone to help us get over all the crap and hurt from our past and make us feel like we're living again. In this book, they found that.

Dedi says

Grade: B+

Heat level: 3.5

Part of Series: Unknown

HEA: Yes

Cliffhanger: No

So many rock star books on the shelves these days, so little time. But wait... this one was a bit different. Also, Ned was more of a pop star than a rock star. Semantics though, right? Maybe...

The Good:

A lot of good in this book actually Both lead characters were extremely likable. The supporting characters were great as well. They didn't over stay their welcome or take away from the story that was Harriet and Ned. I liked how the pop star background came into play and how each of the 4G guys handled it. It's easy to see how things, even extremely important things can be pushed aside in cases of money and fame.

The Bad:

It was actually a little too sweet. And in some cases both leads could be, arguably, quite perfect. Sometimes I also felt like I would rather listen to one of the supporting characters talk about what happened in his life rather than see the syrupy sweetness that was Ned and Harriet. But, on the flip side, you wanted good things to happen for all of these characters and it was almost okay. I think this is more to do with 'sweet' not really being my thing.

Overall:

For a debut book, this was very well written. Likable characters, a plot that moved along at a good pace, and a very well written cast of supporting characters make for a very impressive novel. I would really like to see if Adelaide Hipwell has more stories planned for the rest of the 4G guys as well as Harriet's university pals. I would definitely check those out.

Recommend:

Yes. Even with the overly sweetness it was nice to read a book with a smile on my face almost throughout it. It reminds me of one of those feel good movies you see on the Hallmark Channel and sometimes that's exactly what a person needs.

****Copy received from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review****

Bookgyrl says

Very nice book and written well. Harriet is suffering heartache after her fiance has cheated on her and she leaves Australia for Los Angeles to be with her sister. Alice lives in LA with her husband and young twins in a gated community. Next door to Ned, famous for once being in a British boy band 4G.

And when Harriet and Ned meet, sparks fly. But Harriet is intimidated by the press and feels Ned is out of her league. And Ned feels he cannot subject Harriet to life in the spotlight and also that she is out of his

league. Harriet is not just the girl next door, she is a successful business woman. Can they be together?

Great first novel that also touches the subject of life in the spotlight and the pressures on the young boyband, being gay and depression. Enjoyed it.

Selin' says

- Arc offered in exchange for an honest review -

I can honestly say: I enjoyed reading this book. It's an easy read that sucks you up in the story from the first chapter.

Normally it takes a while to get into the book because the writers are trying to give a view of the characters. But this one didn't take long for you to get the hang of the story. The story starts with Harriet trying to deal with recent heartbreak and betrayal. We get right in the process of her trying to deal with recent events, which is one of the things I liked to give the story a fast pace. It also shows the big support system she has like her sister and friends or like she calls them 'uni girls'. This was one of my favorite things about this book, showing that you don't go through bad times alone when you have the right people around you.

Harriet decides to go live with her sister in LA for a while, to forget the bad memories Australia holds but she didn't expect what was to come.

Ned is in a time of his life where he's trying to figure things out. He used to be in a boyband but is still involved in the industry. Which has his ups and downs. He's dealing with a scandal and past guilt that's still eating him up.

When Harriet and Ned cross paths, the story is a whirlwind of different emotions.

This is a lovely story showing two people who are guarded with their hearts but are trying to take a leap of faith no matter the circumstances. You can easily connect with the story and characters which makes it an easy and enjoyable story to read.

The thing I loved most about this book is that it took on quite a few heavy subjects like homosexuality, guilt, depression, fears of the future and self-esteem issues but still put in a positive way that doesn't make this book an heavy read but shows us everybody can go through these types of things.

I recommend this book for everybody who loves a good love story with an happy ending. You will not regret it.

Bella says

On our own terms is one funny interesting love story. It is story about a famous former boy band member and geeky girl. It was interesting for a change to read about a different music zanr and not about a rock star.

Both main character were interesting and develop. Star of their relationship was like they were teenagers.

And being a famous from his early teenage years and Harriet previous just one relationship was no wonder. Although was their love the main theme of the book also concentrated of Neds life and more sensible subjects. I was pleased how did the story ended and that we see how are they doing after a couple years later.

*ARC provided by Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

Monique says

I received a copy of this book through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

This was recommended to me and to be honest I was a little hesitant given the cover but I read this in a night and was pleasantly surprised by how enticing the story was - the writing is that good. I really liked that the characters were well rounded and the sex scenes weren't used to replace obvious plot holes. Ned and Harriet have obvious chemistry but this doesn't overshadow a story that is very grounded in reality. It is a great combination of funny, sexy, smart and sad. I would definitely give anything else by Hipwell a go :)

Hilda says

I received a copy of this book through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

You know you have a good book in your hands when it's over and you are mourning the loss of the book. In her debut book author Adelaide Hipwell provided me with an exquisite story that I never wanted to end. Her characters were brought to life by her realistic writing style and her nurturing development of each character. Her blend of humor, romance and believable situations made the characters jumped off the pages and come to life before your eyes.

Harriet Jones is a woman scorned by her fiancé, cheating on her with his secretary. But she is not a damsel in distress, she is a brilliant business woman who has lost her way because she believes she lost the love of her life. Harriet leaves Australia to be with her sister in LA.

Ned Smith is a famous singer from her favorite boy band that has broken up. Transplanted from England to LA to continue his music career, Ned faces his own demons of living in the public eye. Ned just happens to be Harriet's sister's next door neighbor in LA. The minute they meet there's more than the boy band crush, Harriet finds herself attracted to him.

Will Harriet be able to overcome her broken heart? Will Ned face his demons and pursue a future? Will the public eye be too much for both of them to bear?

Adelaide provides well developed well rounded characters that I believed to be real life people. Each character in the book has something to add to the overall plot and while Ned and Harriet are the main characters Adelaide didn't skimp on building well developed secondary characters. She provided great chemistry between Ned and Harriet but didn't make it unrealistic. The plot moved at a nice pace and I hope that she writes more about this interesting group of characters. I would one-click anything by Ms. Hipwell in the future.

NiCoLeTa E. says

3,75 "the boy next door" stars

Who wasn't obsessed with a boy band in her teen ages??? Not me, for sure!!!
And i'm positive that neither of you, my friends!!!
Every girl was fan-girling about a boy band and there is no exception!!!

*But what happens to the members of a boy-band when they split apart and take their own ways???
Which is the effect of the fame upon them???*

Well, this book is giving us some answers about those questions and personally to me, it made me think more deeply if the fame is a good or bad thing for them... and i was thinking that yes, we see them as something bright and lucky, but with what cost on them, ugh???

Well, as you can understand in this book we were having ex-boy band's members, music, some funny moments with the Vomitrans (*Don't ask!*), many funny and bitchy pets and of course, much love in the mix...

It was an interesting story that you could read it pleasantly!!!

Harriet was from Australia and she was becoming a hermit since her highschool sweetheart for many years betrayed her and left her for another woman... And plus that, she had no longer job since she sold it to her ex...

Her sister who was living in L.A. persuaded her to stop whinning around and to fly in L.A. for visiting for as long as she wished and Harriet finally decides to step out of the situation that she was leading steadily... But she never expecting that this visit will bring in her way the boy next door from her sister's house... And what a boy!!! The boy of her teenage fantasies!!!!

Ned was a member of the boyband "4G" but before some years the band fell apart...
4G for 10years were in the top, but with what cost???
Ned is carrying too much guilt of that time of his life...

He wish to have made the things differently and to not follow other's orders, but he did it and now he is carrying the burden that he didn't stood besind to his friend and mate Luke as much as he wanted...
Now, he is still in the eye of paparazzi but he had used to it...

He is recovering also of a break up but as a famous person the things got out of hand for once again... He hates the tabloids and the paparazzi but he can't do anything about it, he just trying to keep a low profile. And now, he needs to do it more, since Luke and his partner will come to live with him for the rest 6-7weeks...

So, Harriet and Ned will meet by chance and they will get attracted to each other and from that moment they will try to build something together...

But they are both carrying much insecurities and they don't think that they deserve each other, but are they right??? Or they will destroy something wonderfull without a reason???
But also there is the atter of publicity... Ned is used to it, but how Harriet is feeling about that???
Is she capable to not bother with the rumors??? Or this is another reason to broke the things over???

At the same time, the 4G members are starting to reconnect and by chance they are trying some of Ned's songs together and they liked them like the way they are...
But can they rejoined for once again but putting their own terms on this reunion???

"Ned, your music makes people happy. But please look after yourself. It mustn't be at the expense of your own happiness. Do it on your own terms."

As i told you before, this was an interesting book with its ups and downs...
It had some funny moments and some sad moments, it had a lot of people inside and all of them were unique and wonderfull. The uni girls were amazing, as all the 4G and of course, Harriet's sister and brother in law...

It was a quick, pleasant story that made you wondering about the life of a famous person!!!

My main thoughts about it???

Fame is bad!!! Really bad!!! It can suffocate you!!!

ARC kindly provided via NetGalley for the exchange of an honest review

Mari says

3.5 stars

Not a bad debut. Enjoyable enough storyline and believable. Who hasn't been gaga over boybands at whatever age. Harriet and Nel were pretty cute and likeable. A light read that entertains with fun characters and pretty fun secondary characters.
