



## One for My Baby

*By Tony Parsons*

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### **One for My Baby** By Tony Parsons

Alfie Budd married the love of his life – and then he lost her. He doesn't believe that you get a second shot at true happiness. Returning to the London he left behind during the brief, idyllic time of his marriage, Alfie finds his world collapsing around him – his parents' marriage, his beloved grandmother's health, and his own ambition to be a writer. He takes comfort in a string of causal affairs while he tries to learn Tai Chi from an old Chinese man he meets in the park, George Chang. Will Alfie ever find a family life as strong as the Changes? Can he give up meaningless sex for a meaningful relationship? And how do you play it when the woman you really like has a child who is infatuated with a TV wrestler called The Slab? In this story of love, sex, tragedy, family and redemption, one man searches for the courage to love again.

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## One for My Baby By Tony Parsons Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This third novel from the author of the immensely appealing *Man and Boy* is the amusing story of sad sack Alfie, who has returned to London from Hong Kong following the death of his wife, Rose, the one and only true love of his life, in a scuba diving accident. Alfie, 34, is given to making sensitive, introspective remarks such as "she was my reason" and "That's what love did to me. Love messed up my heart." An affable enough fellow, he's barely living life in his skin as an English language teacher at Churchill's International School, narcissistically sleeping with his students while trying to cope with his parents' breakup and his grandmother's illness and death. Of course, he gradually comes out of his sleepwalking existence to recognize the error of his ways and begin down a path of spiritual fulfillment that includes tai chi instruction and the insight of professional TV wrestler the Slab and his book, *Smell the Fear, He-Bitch*. There are some lovely moments in the novel, when the author subtly reveals the details of Alfie's loss, mixed in with some clever humor, such as when he plays on the class differences between Alfie's lawyer pal Josh and Alfie's cleaning woman girlfriend, a romance that heads somewhat predictably in the direction of *Pygmalion* and *Educating Rita*. At its best, the novel is enjoyable fluff. One only wishes the author had created in Alfie a more dynamic character worthier of the reader's sympathies.

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From [Booklist](#)

Popular British author Parsons' third novel to be published in the U.S. (after *Man and Boy* [2001] and *Man and Wife* [2003]) is a heartfelt, true-to-life look at a young man grappling with the death of his wife. Alfie Budd found *The One* when he met Rose in Hong Kong. But when a tragic accident takes her away from him forever, he is completely lost. He returns to his parents' home in London only to discover his father, the best-selling author of a memoir about growing up poor, is having an affair with the family's au pair. Alfie finally gets himself a job teaching English as a second language to immigrants, and there he discovers a bevy of women who are willing to sleep with him. But it isn't until he meets Jackie Day, a tough young cleaning lady who wants him to be her literature teacher so that she can go to the university, that he actually starts to feel again. Like Parsons' other novels, this one deals with a man having to grow up and move on and is filled with details and observations that are moving, painful, and compellingly true. Another winner from Parsons.

*Kristine Huntley*

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Review

*Evening Standard* (UK) Another brilliant novel that combines laughter and tears, love and sex -- and real human emotions. -- *Review*

## Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Juan Moses:**

Do you have something that you prefer such as book? The reserve lovers usually prefer to choose book like comic, brief story and the biggest you are novel. Now, why not striving *One for My Baby* that give your pleasure preference will be satisfied simply by reading this book. Reading habit all over the world can be said as the opportunity for people to know world much better then how they react to the world. It can't be

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