



Old Loyalty, New Love

Mary Calmes

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When jackal shifter Quade Danas was banished from his pack for being gay, he spent years in the military escaping his father's prejudice before returning to civilian life as a bodyguard for Roman Howell, the teenage son of a very rich man. After Roman is in an accident that leaves him physically scarred and emotionally distant, Quade is the only one who can get through to him. As Roman becomes a man, he realizes what he wants—his bodyguard by his side and in his bed. Unfortunately, Quade can't seem to see past the kid Roman once was to the man he has become, certain Roman's feelings are merely misplaced gratitude. But Roman knows a lot more than Quade realizes, and he's used to persevering, no matter how many impediments life throws his way. He wants the chance to prove to Quade that he's strong enough for a jackal alpha to call mate.

Despite the decades Quade has been away, and the heartache of his father's rejection, his inborn loyalty to the pack remains, and his abrupt departure left the jackal shifters without an alpha heir. As a psychopath shifter staking claim as alpha draws Quade back home, and Quade feels compelled to heed the call, he may be forced to make a choice he never anticipated. But doing so means he must leave Roman behind... unless somehow they find a way to make loyalty and love work together.

Old Loyalty, New Love Details

Date : Published December 13th 2013 by Dreamspinner Press (first published December 12th 2013)

ISBN : 9781627984751

Author : Mary Calmes

Format : ebook 246 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Fantasy, Paranormal, Shapeshifters

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From Reader Review Old Loyalty, New Love for online ebook

Ingie says

Written January 6, 2014

3 1/2 Stars - A witty, romantic and really entertaining shifter story... although I lacked that extra

It was time for a completely new shifter romance by the well-established author Mary Calmes and, as always, I had high expectations.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

First of all, "Old Loyalty, New Love" is really a very enjoyable PNR romance and it's nicely written. ...But I have still some ambivalence and mixed feelings about this book. I really don't know right now, if I like it quite a lot or just like "okay but not more", ie as "just approved".

On the one hand, is this story actually really, really good, with a lovely, witty dialogue and plenty of fun banters. It is also very sensual, romantic and wonderfully yearning and hot.

On the other hand, it feels like I started reading into the midst of a long time ago already started book. I kind of missed a lot of initial pages which didn't exist. You become as "embroiled" in the middle of a dialogue, and in the beginning of the book it felt very confusing and it took quite some time before I began to feel with, and for, the characters.

The plot in "*Old Loyalty, New Love*" is about the **jackal shifter Quade Danas**. He has when the story begins been an ever-present bodyguard to a younger very wealthy man in eleven years. Quade is not only a **bodyguard**, but also friend and support to **Roman Howell, the young beautiful inheritor**, who when he was only seventeen, was severely burned on the upper body and in his face at a traffic accident. Just a few years later, as a 22 year old, he also sadly became an orphan and inherited a huge property and great wealth.

‘Seeing him with his hands fisted at his sides, eyes blazing, jaw clenched, face flushed, sent a jolt of fear down my spine.’

Quade and Roman talk about everything and nothing, and below the surface is also a rapidly growing attraction. A single topic, however, is completely forbidden and secret, the fact that Quade is a *jackal shifter* and a "*seer*". Something that is so cozy is that they are also quite *physical* and touch each other all the time, without in any way sexually, ...but the emotions and the heat is rising. ~ Then one day everything changes.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

There is also a **nineteen years age difference** which I just think makes the whole love story so much more interesting and even more cute and romantic. What is cozier in a good romance than long, and in some ways also faithful, very wistful longing for the very best love. ...and this story becomes very yummy in the end.

“You're so beautiful," I uttered, my voice low and hoarse.

“And you believing that makes me feel that way,” he confessed. “The way you look at me, like

you want me, have to have me, might die without me... you're my miracle.”

For once, in a gay romance, is this story only told in the voice of one character's POV (Quade's), which sometimes is a pity in books. But overall I learned yet, in the end, to know them both very well. Moreover, both these men, and quite a few other lovely characters, are both interesting to meet and exciting to hear. ...for there is a lot of **"talking"**, and I always love that in the romances I read. Thoughts and feelings are not described again and again. They are spoken instead, and they are pronounced with both words and actions by the characters. Nicely done and just this providing a glimmering star from me.

‘He needed me. I belonged to him. What I thought or felt had no consequence, no bearing on anything. Only what he wanted mattered, and what he wanted was me.’

This romance is also about **making up with the old, forget and forgive and move on**. Sometimes you need to reevaluate old assumptions and decisions, and take a chance on something new ... that can make everything so much better for many.

There is of course a lovely and grand HEA (...as in all romances) but I sense a sequel about Quade and Roman and all their friends, and the two characters and maybe new lovebirds (view spoiler), in such cases we will get to know more about. ~ I'm really looking forward to a second book - this was a well written and good beginning of a new exciting and romantic M/M PNR series about *lovely guys who love guys*.

To sum up; sweet, very romantic about two very sexy guys - and a okay and nice read. I'm pleased!

I LIKE - certainly enough to enjoy the story

~~~~~

*A funny picture with two homo jackals: (view spoiler)*

(hide spoiler)]

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**SheReadsALot says**

**4.5 Stars**--Mary Calmes slung her book crack shifter style with this one.

To which I say:

I know what I wanted when I came to this party.

I wanted possessive claiming.

I wanted "mine".

I wanted a little cray-cray that seemed to surround the main characters but somehow fucking worked for them.

And I got it.

Crackish Fiend is Happy.

I got a lot of "Yeah" and "What" dialogue too. :/ That could count toward the *Con* pile but the motherfucking *Pros* outweigh that con in this one for me.

Yes, the Calmesian formula struck again and it was smelling like pie. Not any kind of pie mind you, oh no, this book extols the miracles of cherry pie.

Sweet Cheesus, save me from pies. I'm eating a slice of apple crumb as I write this review as a way to toast Quade and Roman and their jackal alpha fucking. ;P

Roman Howell is super rich, lives in a chateau aka castle-mansion in Maine. He has been burned significantly on his face and body during a bus accident while a teenager. Now at 27, his face is permanently scarred. Instead of letting his disfigurement control his life, Roman lives life with the help of his longtime bodyguard Quade. Quade is over six feet tall, Greek, older and a walking wet dream. Plus, he's a alpha jackal shifter. Roman and stubborn Quade have been circling around falling for each other for too many year, Roman finally makes his move and offers something the alpha can't resist: love.

Points to the author for choosing a unique shifter, a jackal and the sprinkling of Egyptian mythology. That was different. I like the jackal society she created.

While I would've loved some more action especially against the villain, I mean there was blatant build up for some primo ass kicking, Calmes doesn't have time for that because there are pies to eaten, coats to be worn, food to be cooked, touching to be done, kisses to be given and alpha fawning that needs constant attention.

**(No time for the drinking game with this one, I'd need a new liver if I played with this book)**

At first, I thought Roman was the Jory of the book. But it was a shared effort between Roman and Quade. EVERYBODY wanted Quade once he left Maine (the tops-only-but-would-bottom-for-Quade-only rent boy not included \*purses lips\*) Quade didn't really have to flex his shifter muscles around because he exuded so my alphaness people couldn't fucking handle themselves around him including Roman who kept rubbing on him and grinding. And I wondered WTF is with everyone and their fucking hands?

But you know what?

All of it. The crazy shifter duel that was over in two blinks because there was more important business to get to. The important business being Christmastime and if there is anything I know MC loves, it's Christmas.

The Santa jizz was abundant.

And I found myself not giving a flying shit. As long as Quade kept biting Roman and filling his hole with alpha cock, claiming his mate over and over again, I didn't care. Somehow all of the talking about mundane shit, shifter shit, longing shit, returning back to your roots shit, friends to lovers shit, pie motherfucking baking shit...it fucking worked. Praise be Calmes!

Because I'm reading #2 with bells on. They might even possibly jingle.

(view spoiler)

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### **Elise ✕ a.k.a Ryder's Pet ✕ says**

**Eh.** That's the word I thought about when I finish this book. I was a bit uncomfortable with the age of **Quade Danas**; 46 years old is only three years younger than my dad. With **Roman Howell** being 27 years old, there was 19 years between them. I didn't mind that, not really, but being so close to my dad's age... just no. As far as the story went, it was interesting. Really it was. The book has potential, and I like how **Mary Calmes** gets that *animalistic* side of the characters forth. It's kinda awesome. But there's still something missing that I need, but can't figure out. I think it was something to do with the characters... Who know? Overall, I don't regret reading it, but **the book is not something I would think to mention to someone.**

*His smile was luminous. "I will say, though, in whatever form you take, wolf or man, you're absolutely breathtaking." Jesus. "And both will belong to me."*

#### **Quick basic facts:**

**Genre:** - (Adult) Paranormal Romance (M/M)

**Series:** - Series, Book One

**Love triangle?** - (view spoiler)

**Cheating?** - (view spoiler)

**HEA?** - (view spoiler)

**Favorite character?** - Quade Danas.

**Would I read more by this author/or of series?** - Probably.

**Would I recommend this book/series?** - Unsure.

**Will I read this again in the future?** - No.

**Rating** - 2 stars

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### **Meags says**

#### **4.5 Stars**

Surprise, surprise, I loved it!

I read a lot of shifter stories and I love the possessive qualities of the romances within such stories. I crave all

the epic mate bonds and the *mine, mine, mine* vibes, and thankfully all of that was present and accounted for in this first story within Calmes' L'Ange series.

Uniquely, the shifter kind explored here was that of the jackal, tying back to ancient Egypt and the Greek God Anubis. I loved the deviation from the all too popular wolf/werewolf shifter stories that I often read, and although the shifter world-building didn't get too in depth here, I liked what I did learn and I'm hoping more background information is revealed in the sequels.

What I particularly enjoyed was the fact that the MCs, Quade and Roman, had a long-term established relationship in the form of boss and employee, and also closest friends and confidante's, before the story even began. Even though they'd known each other for eleven years, there was no insta-love between these two; their bond was built and strengthened over time, so when they did admit their long harboured feelings it all felt like a natural progression in their relationship. Then, of course, all the mating and *mine, mine, mine* happened, AND I LOVED EVERY MINUTE OF IT!!

This still had that wacky, almost ridiculous, quality that so many of Calmes' books have, but I wasn't as astounded by it here – it was either tamer than the dramatics and silliness of some of the books I have previously read by Calmes, OR I'm becoming completely immune to her brand of madness. Either way, I found this story completely addictive and I eagerly look forward to seeing what comes next for Quade, Roman and their newly established pack.

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## **R \* A Reader Obsessed \* says**

### **4 Stars!**

Well that certainly hit the spot for some yummy shifter goodness!

Props to Calmes, who of course brings her classic brand of over the top possessiveness, with some crazy ridiculousness, that simply works perfectly when it comes to the paranormal setting. Throw in her trademark, irresistible MC, and you'll be hard pressed to not finish this in one go, as shenanigans ensue.

For me, the blurb hinted at something far more angstier than what I got, and I'm totally fine with that. Quade is a jackal, one of the most powerful of his kind, but instead of being the leader of his pack, he was kicked out prematurely by his father who could not accept his sexuality. Though he misses his shifter life, he's made his own by being the bodyguard of rich, influential Roman, who basically runs a business empire in small town Maine. Quade loves Roman but feels he must leave the young man soon, believing his feelings inappropriate and thinking his presence is holding Roman back from settling down with the right man. What Quade doesn't fully comprehend is that Roman is ready to be all in with him specifically, a concept Quade just can't quite grasp. When his pack calls for help, it sets in motion the revealing of secrets both he and Roman have been keeping, making it that much harder for Quade to leave Roman to fulfill his innate duty.

What results is some nicely done pack politics, power plays, and hot smexy claiming, as Quade and Roman negotiate their new lives and responsibilities. No where near confounding as *Change of Heart* (though that series is amazing in its own right), I enjoyed the setup of this and really look forward to the sequels. It's been hinted at from various reviews and updates from future books that there's some intense, violent, possibly heart stopping badassery coming, and I look forward to the ingenious reveals regarding this unique world

that is to come. I don't expect any less from a Calmes shifter book. My mind and body are ready!

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## **Vivian says**

Kinda a 'Beast and the Beast' story.

Nice sense of setting. Not that I know jack about Maine, but it sure did seem pretty. Plus, Roman living in the fairy tale castle on the hill sorta made it even prettier. Okay, so yeah, I guess I just flew with the fantasy world of Quade and Roman in this one.

Quade is hot, experienced and a lot more than he seems. I liked the little extra twist from a wolf shifter to jackal; it added a little pizzaz and fun background. I liked him, a lot. Understood honor and duty.

Roman, the beautiful heir tragically scarred. He was lovely, and determined. Once he knew what he wanted and knew he could have it. He chased. Nice. Unfortunately, he really didn't add much to the story except for some shopping and arm candy for Quade.

The whole drama with Quade definitely took this a slightly different direction than I was expecting. In fact, it added two whole other stories which seemed a bit odd, but I just kept rolling. Anyway, this wasn't amazing; it was a sweet and entertaining moment.

Favorite quote:

"No shifter will ever think I chose you out of anything beyond simple want. Do you understand that?"

~~A copy was provided to me for a No Glitter Blown review~~

~~~**Reviewed for Hearts On Fire Reviews**~~~

Julio Genao says

[

it's not romantic. it's fucking disgusting.

because that kid's disfigurement is nothing to the disfigurement you invite upon your soul when you indulge in a fantasy this petty, childish, and vindictive.

not. even. kidding.

don't do it to yourself.

this world can be about getting back at all the people who ever

Emma Sea says

My Mary Calmes Addiction, or Why Jory Likes Pie

Mary Calmes's books are apple pies. They're *all* apple pies. Sometimes they have allspice in the apple mix, sometimes sultanas, sometimes they have a crispy crumble top instead of pastry. Sometimes they're tarte tatin. If apple pie doesn't do it for you - if you try one of her apple pies and think, "Bleurgh, apple," then a different apple pie is probably still not going to be your thing.

But sometimes you just love the warm homey feeling apple pie gives you, even if you don't, objectively, like apple filling all that much. And the pastry is a bit thick. Or, even, occasionally, lumpy and still raw in patches.

I read *A Matter of Time* first. It was (then) five books. At the end of book one I was not enjoying the pie. It was oversweet and cloying. But it was a two-in-one book, and I had to finish, for the sake of completeness. And by the end of book two I was addicted to apple pie. After *Matter of Time* I read *Again*, and I was pissed off. "This is another apple pie!" I cried. I'd been expecting carrot cake, or at the very least blueberry pie.

But one night I re-read *Again*, and I suddenly *got it*. There's no point being annoyed at apple pie. You appreciate it was what it is, not what you want it to be. All at once, because, in truth, Mary Calmes makes her apple pies with spoonfuls of both love and crack, I just embraced the sugary squishiness. It's very hard to explain or justify.

If you are not yet addicted to apple pies, I can't in honesty recommend them. There is not one single book I can point at and say, "This one. This one is actually a *good* book."

I love *Again* because it's a wish fulfillment fantasy about being dumped but you're really still loved after all. I love *Mine* because it's a wish fulfillment fantasy about being completely dysfunctional but someone loving you and saving you and looking after you despite this. I love *What Can Be* because it's a wish fulfillment fantasy about leaving someone who loves you so much they refuse to be left. Running away, and knowing they will always chase.

I think Mary Calmes knows all my secrets: that I am more flaw than substance and deeply unlovable, and so she writes these utterly unbelievable books that work as emotional fracking: filling in the cracks and bringing remnants of trust and hope and joy up to the surface so I can savor the biochemical sips. When I am dying in my last days and they are cold and dry and without emotion I'll know it's because Mary Calmes used her apple pie voodoo to wring those final drops out of my cynical brain forty years earlier. Worth it.

Gina says

I love shifter stories and I love M/M books, put the two together and I am anticipating a wonderful read. This book by Mary Calmes did not disappoint, I thoroughly enjoyed this story and the two MC's captured my heart.

Quade Danas is a Jackal shifter, who was banished from his pack by his father the alpha when he came out that he was gay. After serving in the military Quade is now a bodyguard to 16 yr old Roman Howell. Six months after being Roman's bodyguard the young man is in a horrific bus accident that leaves a great deal of his body, including his face, disfigured. Then at age 21 Roman's parents die, leaving him alone. Quade feels very protective of Roman and wants to see him happy and settled, he has fought his attraction to Roman for years, convincing himself it's just his protective instinct, having managed to keep his true self hidden he feels he must leave before Roman finds out.

What I liked best about Quade was his loyalty to Roman. Despite Roman's often rude behavior to others Quade could see past this. He would never let him get away with it though, constantly calling him up on his bad behavior.

Roman for me initially was hard to like, despite my heartbreak for him. He was aloof and moody, but it was apparent from the start how much he leaned and depended on Quade. When circumstances force Quade to go back to his old pack to challenge their alpha he is forced to make a decision on his life and Roman's.

This story honestly took me a little while to get into, the build up in the beginning was hard to enjoy. I found my mind drifting, not able to stay focused on it. At about 22% though, the story picked up and I was glued to my seat. As the passion and relationship builds between Quade and Roman I found myself smiling and happy. At this point for me it was impossible to put down, I was up till late in the evening to reach the end.

This story had passion, suspense, humor and action. Some of the sex scenes between Roman and Quade were absolutely swoon worthy and I needed a fan to keep me from overheating! The combination of passion and chemistry, want and needing were just the right mix to send my romantic heart a flutter.

Overall a winner of a story and I will be waiting and hoping for more of this series.

.Lili. says

When I first started this book- up to almost the half way point- I thought I was in trouble.

I'm sure I was looking a little like this

I was having a hard time with the narrative. I just wasn't connecting with the characters and some things were a bit off for me. But then-

All the off sugary sweet love and possessiveness really won me over. I'm a total sucker for all the "Mate" talk. I can't help myself.

If you're in the mood for a sweet, smexy shifter story then look no further. 3.5 Stars. :)

Rosa, really says

[although so many people coughed in this book they should either purchase stock in Ricola or die of consumption... (hide spoiler)]

Susan says

Now this is how I like my Mary Calmes books. Possessive shifters, fluffy romance, hot sex.

Quade is a jackal shifter and kicked out of his pack for being gay (I don't care how unoriginal this is, I like it).

He has been the bodyguard of Roman for the past 11 years. Roman is 27, but was in a terrible car crash when he was 18. He has severe burn wounds all over his body. Quade is the only one that sees the beauty beneath the scars.

The two of them are close and Quade has been in love with Roman for a while. But he thinks he is no good for Roman so he plans to leave the estate. But Roman won't let that happen. He tells Quade he is in love with him too and that they belong together.

Quade struggles for a bit, but Roman is very persistent, so he has no choice but to follow his heart.

Of course there is also the issue of Quade's old pack and their abusive alpha, which Quade has to challenge to help the rest of the pack.

Nice, fluffy shifter story. Very Mary Calmes.

Jenni Lea says

Re-read 12/16/16. Loved it just as much, if not more, than the last time I read it.

Did I love it? Duh! It's Mary Freakin' Calmes!

Nuff said.

Arthur says

4.5 stars

A cinderella shifter story. The basic plot is a common shifter story: a gay alpha-born shifter who was thrown by his family is now called back by his former pack because the current one is abusive and the pack's situation is declining. Combined that with a very rich but disfigured mate, plus Mary Calmes' usual style of writing (rapid tug of war in words between two characters), we get an interesting first book of a new shifter series.

What I like

- Mary Calmes managed to write her signature 'everyone loves him' and traditional family roles with a twist. Her characters usually consist of a physically dominant one (Logan, Rand, etc) and a strong, smart, but submissive one (Jin, Jory, Stefan, etc). Most of the time, her books take the point of view of the 'submissive' one. Here, it's from the physically dominant one.
- A not-so-beautiful MC, whose face is disfigured from accident
- Not-so-young MCs: one is 46 yo, the other is 27 yo
- View on monogamous and polygamous relationship

My concern is this has a repetitious feeling of 'Change of Heart' series. Although I can see that unlike that series, this one will have interspecies relationships(what with lion, jackal, and stag...), so hopefully not too bogged down with power struggles and politics.

DarienMoya says

~SAME SHIT, DIFFERENT BOOK~

The Story: 2 Pants Off

I read this book a few years ago and I didn't hate it, gave it a 3 ??s. I'm sure I'm being very generous with my new rating because something must have happened and I really kind of hate this.

The story is irritating, Quade is irritating even more so than Roman. Like how you gon have this poor boy disfigured badly and include the narrative that everyone else is like "ewww" except for one man who can see beyond his scars. That shit is hella played!!

Not to mention the story is jumbled with no clear plot point but, to show Quade's relevance at being awesome and looking skin deep. Then the nonchalant dialogue really fucking pissed me off. I freaking get it, you guys are so cool and can never get riled but for me it came off like a airhead. Pay the fuck attention and stop being like a leaf in the wind ? (actual depiction of their thought process).

Gist of the matter, Quade the alpha he also the best cus he a special alpha. He found love in a hopeless place and now they all live happily ever after.

The Narration: 1.75 Pants Off

What the heck was this?! Before I begin my rant let me say I like Tristan James voice it's nice and soothing, but I did not like Tristan James narration of this.

First, every damn character sounded the same. There wasn't even trying or any form of imagination on this. Just someone reading the book out loud and making me realize how much of a hot mess this story is. If there was a little showmanship I might have enjoyed it more.

Second, everything came off sounding like he was reading in disbelief. Like Tristan couldn't believe the story he was reading and because he couldn't sell it, I wasn't buying it. What a mess!!

Overall, this audio might have been a bad idea. I should have went on thinking the story was ok from my fist read. Having someone read it out loud made me realize that it really pissed me off. Like who in their right mind is gonna sit down with the ex that cheated with the best friend, and then have them say some fuck shit about the man you love and allow them to walk away with all their teeth and limbs. Gawww, I'm so fucking irritated ?

Another case of SSDB (SAME SHIT, DIFFERENT BOOK)
