



Man and Boy

Tony Parsons

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HE HAD TO FACE THE TOUGHEST JOB OF HIS LIFE. AND HE NEVER ONCE THOUGHT HE'D BE ON HIS OWN.

Harry had it all: a beautiful wife, an adorable four-year-old son, and a high-paying media job. But on the eve of his thirtieth birthday, with one irresponsible act, he threw it all away. Suddenly he finds himself an unemployed single father trying to figure out how to wash his son's hair the way Mommy did and whether green spaghetti is proper breakfast food. This brilliantly engaging novel will tug at your heart as Harry learns to become a father to his son and a son to his aging father, takes stabs at finding new love, and makes the hardest decision of his life.

Man and Boy Details

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From Reader Review Man and Boy for online ebook

Sunni says

This is an engaging, smooth read and I would have rated it higher had I never read/seen "Kramer v. Kramer." I really felt this was borderline plagiarism and was very surprised the author could get away with recreating so much of that story, right down to details like carrying the child when he is injured on the playground. I am also surprised that 25 years later this story plays well. When Kramer came out, most men didn't have a clue about real hands-on parenting and a man with custody was unheard of...the "Mr. Mom" stories made great fodder. Today, I'd be hard-pressed to think of a young father who does not fully participate in every aspect of parenting (not housework mind you...we haven't come THAT far!). The protagonist does have some self-discoveries that were not covered in Kramer, but mostly it is the same book.

Ioanna says

Με τ?ποτα ?μως!

Hoa T??ng Vi says

- Cu?n này khi?n mình ph?i vi?t review cho nó t?ng phân ?o?n m?t.

Khi ??c xong r?i mình m?i hi?u ra vì sao mình c? th?y r?m r?t, b?c b?i trong lúc ??c, ?ó là vì nó th?c t? quá, ch?n th?c ?n m?c khi?n mình kh?ng ch?u ch?p nh?n th? mà nó ?? c?p ??n. Th? nh?ng ?i ??n cu?i r?i s? nh?n ra, con ng??i dù ?ôi lúc ích k? và h?i h?t thì khi yêu h? c?ng s? tìm ra cách ?? tr? n?n r?ng l??ng h?n, dù là r?t kh?o. V? r?ng kh?ng ai có th? s?ng m?i trong nh?ng bài hát c?, nhi?u m?ng m?, th?c t? nhi?u khi ?áng ghét nh? m?t b?n rap nhi?u câu t?c t?u, ho?c tr? n?n c?m ghét nó ho?c h?c cách ??i di?n và mang cho nó m?t ý ngh?a kh?c. T?t c? ph? thu?c vào cách nh?n c?a m?i ng??i.

- Mình ?ang ? 3/4 quy?n sách -

Ho?c 4/5 g?i ?ó. Ch?a có cu?n nào mà mình g?m lâu nh? cu?n này. Có th? là vì ch?a k?t hôn n?n v?i mình nó là m?t m?n kh?o nu?t. Có v? nh? suy ?oán c?a mình v? s? r?n n?t gi?a Gina và Pat h?i quá. Mình hy v?ng 2 m? con h? n?. Cyd là m?t c?c g?i kh?ng t? n?u kh?ng mu?n nói là t?t. Duy nh?t Harry là m?n kh?ng ?a ???c. Nh?ng t? m?t c?i là anh ta có m?t ông b? và m?t bà m? tuy?t v?i. Mình c?n kh?ng th?m c? c?m nh?n câu ch?. Vì nó quá hi?n th?c.

- Review cho n?a ??u -

Ch?a có cu?n sách nào mà mình v?a ??c v?a b?c b?i nh? cu?n này. Có l? là do quan ?i?m cá nh?n. Mình kh?ng ch?p nh?n ???c c?i cách mà Harry ??i di?n v?i cu?c hôn nh?n c?a anh ta sau khi ?ã t? tay ph? v? nó. Anh ta kh?ng hi?u. Kh?ng hi?u ???c là ch?nh anh ta là ng??i ph? v? m?i th?, làm nó bung b?t c? ra. Th?m chí anh ta c?n kh?ng m?y may th?y h?i h?n v? vi?c ngo?i t?nh. M? m?n cá là h?n 90% ?an ông hi?n ??i suy ngh? nh? v?y. Anh ta c?n kh?ng th?m nói v?i b? m? anh ta v? chuy?n m?n ngo?i t?nh n?n b? v? b?. H? ??n gi?n m?c ??nh s? b? ?i c?a Gina là h?n ??ng thi?u suy ngh? c?a c?c ?y th?i. M? Gina c?ng l?m m?n b?c kh?ng t? n?i. C?c ?y b? ?i t?n Nh?t B?n và b? l?i ??a con trai c?a m?n cho m?t ng??i cha mà kh?ng bi?t m?n làm sai ? ?âu. Y m?n mu?n nói, l?m sao c?c ?y có th? b? l?i ??a con c? ch?? c?i l?c th?ng b?c ng? suy?t r?n x??ng s? th? c?c ?y ? c?i ch? ch?t ti?t n?o? V? r?i tr? con th? d? thay ??i, r?i trong m?t con trai, c?c ?y s? th?n m?t bà m? ích k?, r?i nh?ng r?n n?t t?nh c?m, r?i s? là c? cu?c ??i ph?i h?i h?n. M? c?c ?y th? x?ng ?áng v?i nh?ng th? h?n th?.

Ôi, mình không bi?t n?a, ch? là th?y r?t b?c b?i.

Natalee says

I really wanted to read this book and finally got round to it. I felt it started with a bit of promise but kind of didn't get better.

Meet Harry, happily married with a little boy and a good job. He cheats on his wife and she leaves him and also his contract isn't renewed at work. His wife is very upset as she gave up her dream to go to Tokyo to be with Harry and decides that she's going to go as a result. She leaves their son behind and Harry now has to be a parent to his son, a job that took him 10 minutes a day previously. He does step up to the plate and makes a go of it but still feels like the injured party in the whole situation. This was annoying. I mean, Harry seems like a nice enough guy but apologise to your wife and accept you did wrong. And no, you don't get a medal for being a single father for a short time. Gina annoyed me to an extent too, she just left her son and went to Tokyo, Seriously? Harry's parents were likable though and added a nice tough. I'm glad Harry accepted the challenges in raising his son, but he had little choice anyway. And the book ended the way I thought it would so there is an element of predictability.

One this I didn't like was - they are in England but mum is 'mom' in the book. And they talk about soccer. It would have been good to use the English terms and spellings. My book is a US version but everyone knows that mum and Football are the same as mom and Soccer.

Sarah says

How on earth did this sell a million copies?? Do not read!!

Rosie Nguy?n says

V?a ??c xong 1 quy?n tình cha con d??i góc nhìn c?a ??a con xong chuy?n sang tình cha con d??i góc nhìn c?a ng??i cha. B? ?nh h??ng c?m xúc s??t m??t c?a quy?n tr??c sao ?ó không bi?t mà thút thít su?t ?o?n ??u, ? thi ch?ng ph?i l?i gi?i thi?u ?ã là: "M?t cú ?ánh d? d?i vào c?m xúc c?a ng??i ??c sao", bi?n minh ch? nh?t ??nh không ch?u mình mít ??t, há há.

?m cái này thì t? duy r?t ph??ng tây, hài h??c, th?ng th?n, lý trí, t?nh táo. Có nhi?u suy ngh? r?t sâu s?c v? cu?c ??i, v? kho?ng cách th? h?, hôn nh?n, gia ?inh, ??i lo?i th?.

N?u ???c l?a ch?n thì thà ? giá ch? không làm h?ng cu?c ??i mình và con mình theo ki?u các nh?n v?t trong truy?n. Hãy dà, ai nói single là kh?. Single s??ng l?m ch?, h? h?.

Hay, happy ending. Các b?n ??y vi?t th? ??ng h?ng mu?n k?t thúc l? l?ng tr?t qu?t ki?u m?y b?n Nh?t.

Miran says

*****SPOILERS AHEAD (but maybe they will help You to skip this book, I hope)*****

Whole book I was waiting for main character to realize his mistake, that sleeping with another woman besides his wife, EVEN FOR ONE NIGHT, is WRONG. That's the only reason I kept reading. But my waiting didn't pay off. Through whole book I was reading Harry's whining how life is unfair, how everyone is talking to him that he is hopeless romantic (wtf???), how he is the victim that wife left him. He also didn't tell his parents that he cheated on his wife, so they also felt sorry for him. He didn't have a job and didn't come to mind that he could sell his sports car so he could pay off mortgage on house - I feel the only reason for this stupidity is to feel sorry for him after some hooligans tear roof of the car.

In short, after the fact that HE cheated on his wife, that huge and only important matter in the book, isn't emphasized but disregarded, everything else is just b*shit. There's so many idiotic sentences in the book.

I don't know what was the point of the book, really. The world is NOT to blame for you cheating on your wife, the problem is YOU, and everything that comes with it is also your fault.

Nebojša Petković says

Mene je ova knjiga poprilično dotakla. Iskreno nisam to očekivao, uzevši je više reda radi nego neke preterane zainteresovanosti. I kada sam počinjao sa čitanjem, znajući siže, smatrao sam da su "bolesti" koje iniciraju sled dogačaja glavnog protagoniste, u mom slučaju uveliko prevazičene (moja kriza srednjih godina može sada da se prenesti deceniju kasnije od njegovih). Druga stvar, nisam opsednut tim svakodnevnim problemima savremenog čoveka, bar ne u tolikoj meri da bih smatrao kako se od toga može napraviti veliko književno delo, a da se ne začne u domen popularne (lakše) psihologije i sl. Međutim, "našao" sam se u njoj na toliko mnogo ravni da me je sve to na kraju baš potreslo.

Izuzetno delo puno topline i istine.

Velika preporuka za sve očeve i sinove.

Meliana says

reading "Man and Boy" is like listening to an easy-listening pop song. it is sweet, easy to guess, nothing in particular. it goes well, as usual, and everybody likes it. it is just; i am not really into pop music.

though is beautifully written, i don't find any sense to fill up my soul after reading this book. it is just a too-easy-to-guess and happy ending story, good for the young couples.

i think it will be better if the story of the father and the son (read: man and boy) is brought up more deeply and emotionally.

Michael says

Harry Silver has everything that most people would envy to have: a beautiful spouse, great job in the media and a wonderful son. On the other hand, while most will love to have that kind of life, they do not realize the sacrifice that comes with it. Harry threw it all away after a one night stand, now he struggles to be a single parent and his ex often wonders if he is capable of taking on such a big responsibility. Raising his son alone is really hard, he asks common questions such as: Should you eat green spaghetti for breakfast? Is his son really the most beautiful son in the world or is that just a trend that goes around? Is he fit to be a parent? Gina regrets that she left her child with Harry, so she wants him back in her life, although she is in Tokyo trying to have a fresh start. It does not get any better that Harry's father health is dying and he is falling in love at the wrong time. He soon has to make a decision that is best not only for himself but for his dear son that he adores. This is a witty, insightful and inspirational about making the right choices in the end.

Naomi says

Truth. That's what I kept thinking as I was reading this book. It's true and it's raw. It's sad and it's happy. Tony Parsons has a certain way of making the characters so real. I felt I knew Harry Silver. Really knew him, as a friend.

I guess stories like this don't really need to be complicated to really draw readers in. In the first few chapters I was devastated when Gina and Harry break up. I actually felt pain for Harry during his tiny mid-life crisis when he sleeps with another woman. The book puts across the reality that is life. That relationships can't be all romance all the time. The fact that people do fall in and out of love. The pressure that people have in today's society to be happy and romantic all the time. I don't know why people kid themselves into thinking being with someone is an easy task. It's really not, especially when you're with each other for life and have a family.

It made me empathise with little Pat, a child of divorce. The majority of my friends and exfriends have had divorced parents but they never really talk about it. What it was like when they initially split up. I'm so very lucky to have parents that have stayed together. The book brings to light the horrendous damage that divorce can bring upon a child and a parent. The quote that really got me;

"You need a license to drive a car. You need a license to own a dog, but anyone can bring a child into the world." It's true. Of course I'm not at liberty to really give my opinion on parenting and in some cases- love itself. I'm only seventeen.

I've kinda veered off the point of this review. In a nutshell, I totally loved it. The truth of life that nothing is really a happy ending. It's sad, but true and that's what I really like in a book :)

Canada says

I definitely preferred "About a Boy"- Nick Hornby has no competition whatsoever from Tony Parsons. Parsons tries to be funny. Fails, of course, but then it's made more pathetic by the fact that he totally pulls the heart strings to their fullest extent at the end. And that doesn't quite work. It was almost boring. Almost as bad as Jack Sheffield! [That's saying something:].

James says

For the most part pedestrian, relying on stereotypical characters and clichéd narrative – Tony Parson’s mildly diverting novels certainly served a purpose in the late 1990’s / early 2000’s when they first started coming out – giving permission and opening the door to the perhaps previously non-book reading 30/40-something lads/men to read about and indulge in stories of other men and the various life dilemmas faced by the pre-millennial male in modern society, providing characters they could identify with and life choices they could relate to.

Ultimately though, these novels are uninspiring, verging on the lazy. After the success of ‘Man & Boy’ the following novels from Parsons essentially followed and relied on the same narrative template.

Whatever happened to the former ‘enfants terrible’ of the UK music press, who along with Julie Burchill terrorised the staid, conservative and self-indulgent writings of their elder music journalist peers? Well I guess they grew up, like we all do – but maybe along the way some of that fire has certainly been lost, that attention grabbing and exciting music journalism became by comparison, utterly mundane in these generic ‘modern/contemporary’ novels. These novels by Tony Parsons, whilst largely proficient, lack excitement and inspiration – ultimately betraying all that early promise. Unless of course all that ‘kicking against the establishment’ was merely a pose, a pretension symptomatic of the time and perhaps rooted in an underlying and cynical careerist agenda all along – who knows?

Whilst Parson was initially kicking against the establishment back in the late 1970’s, he then quite decidedly became the establishment – an inevitable transition perhaps, but such a ‘revolt into style’ doesn’t necessarily have to equate to such a literary decline. Where Parsons once had so much to say, there now seems so little to be told. Parsons is now reportedly a staunch supporter of the UK Conservative Party and now apparently rails against people having tattoos...need I say more?

There is in the end, nothing particularly bad about these novels – they are proficient and mildly diverting, but they do lack any real excitement, seem bereft of inspiration and are – ultimately disposable.

Lucy_van_pelt says

Chick lit for boys.

Uyên Khôi says

Mình bi?t t?i cu?n sách này ??u tiên qua m?t câu trích d?n ? fanpage Nhã Nam, sau ?ó thì trót yêu m?t cái bìa nén mua ngay.

Câu chuy?n k? v? c?p v? ch?ng c??i s?m, r?i ly hôn vì m?t lý do khá c? chu?i. Nh?ng mình ngh? ?ó c?ng

không h?n là m?t câu chuy?n bu?n khi mà t? ?ó Harry ?ã h?c ???c cách tr? thành m?t ông b? t?t, m?t ??o di?n tài, m?t ng??i con có hi?u và quan tr?ng nh?t là anh ?ã tìm ???c m?t ng??i "có cái mi?ng v?a khít v?i anh theo ki?u không m?t cái mi?ng nào ?ã t?ng, v?a v?n m?t cách hoàn h?o".

Câu chuy?n không có quá nhi?u k?ch tính, ?ó là lí do t?i sao mình ??c nó lâu ??n v?y. L? ra mình s? ?ánh giá th?p h?n, nh?ng vì có nh?ng ?i?u nho nh? trong cu?n sách này làm mình thích và c?ng vì nó có m?t cái k?t th?t ??p.
