



Henry & Me

Sasha Clinton

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When we were in college, Henry Stone asked me out and I shot him down in the most humiliating way possible.

He was a nerd and I was the golden girl of the theatre society, destined to make it big in Hollywood, so how could there be anything between us?

Now six years later, as an out-of-work actress who has to take on a housekeeping job to stay afloat, I run into him again—and boy, has he made it big.

As I begin to clean his house and take care of his precocious nephew, I realize how wrong I was about him.

He's sexy, smart, kind, everything I never thought he would be.

But I have demons that he can't fight. Demons that keep me away from love.

One thing's for sure: This housekeeper-gig is going to be the hardest role of my life.

Henry & Me Details

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Author : Sasha Clinton

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From Reader Review Henry & Me for online ebook

Alison says

Oh dear, having said I don't like to write mean reviews I find myself writing a second one within days!

I love a rich/ popular girl learning the value in a nerd/ hard work kind of story; heck I love Hallmark movies, Movies 24 and pretty much every high school film there is. But the key thing is that the rich/popular/beautiful girl has to have some redeeming qualities, she has to be thoughtless not spiteful. I didn't think that Max had any redeeming qualities, she was borderline stupid, clumsy, self-absorbed, she had no work ethic, she felt no compunction about lying to her employer, she rummaged around in her employer's personal possessions, she was egotistical, she scrounged off her brother and his wife whilst also bad-mouthing her sister-in-law and she judged people on their looks. By page 21 I had decided I didn't like her. This is supposed to be Max's chance at redemption but she doesn't seem to take the opportunity.

The writing was stilted and awkward, for example:

"I'm really good at speaking in front of people because I studied acting."

or maybe

"Rob, stop using your strength to intimidate me. I'm not the cowering kitten I once was."

At times Max sounded like a twelve year old girl, but that's okay because the nine year old boy sounded like a cross between a five year old and a 40 year old.

But if Max was unpleasant and unlikeable Henry was a cardboard cut-out. The nerd who was rejected by Max at Harvard (yep, you can have difficulty tying your own shoe laces but get into Harvard to study acting) has now become unbelievably wealthy and successful. Yet when he runs into Max again and gives her a job as his housekeeper/ nanny to his nephew he falls in love with her all over again. And I just kept thinking, why? She was unpleasant at college and she is still unpleasant in the present day but apparently he falls for her and I can't understand why, it doesn't make sense. He is such a Pollyanna it's nauseating.

"When I was sick, I realized how fortunate I was to have people to look after me. I wanted to be useful to them in my own way. because I couldn't move, or even talk much, all I could do was smile. That way, I could at least cheer them up. Since then, I've decided not to be grumpy or get mad at anyone."

And don't get me started on the two Michelin Star restaurant which you can just walk into off the street and get a table (try a three month waiting list), which serves mozzarella sticks, tomato and basil "something", shrimp and chocolate cake. It sounds more like a chain restaurant!

I can only assume that this was supposed to be satire of some kind because it wasn't funny and the plot was unrealistic. (view spoiler)

I really wanted to like this book but it totally missed the mark for me, maybe others will find Max and her misadventures hysterically funny.

I received a free copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley in return for an honest review.

Moon Love says

3.5 stars!

I really liked the premise of this book. However, I felt disconnected from Max a little. When the book opens, I found myself hard pressed to like her. That changed as the book progressed, but I still wasn't fully able to get on the Max train. My feelings regarding Henry are also weird. When we first meet Henry, he's nowhere near meeting the physical descriptors most heroes do. But I hated the way he was callously hurt.

When Max and Henry meet again, things are different. Both Max and Henry are different and I enjoyed seeing them be around each other under their new circumstances. Both of them likable as adults. However I was a little confused. Sasha Clinton kept changing descriptors when it came to Henry. At first he'd filled out a little, then he was built like the typical hero, and then was later described as still being lean with a hint of muscle. The multiple descriptors kept throwing off the mental image of Henry I'd created.

Other than that, the book is both funny and sweet. The humor is provided in a large part by Henry's nephew, who is a precocious nine year old. The sweet came from Max and Henry trying to figure out their feelings for one another and dealing with trauma from Max's romantic past. I also loved Ji-ae and Cooper, Max's sister-in-law and brother.

This is my first book by Sasha Clinton. I feel like she has a lot of promise and talent. I would definitely read her again. If you're looking for a second chance romance with lots of potential, laughter, and romance, I'd check this one out!

DJ Sakata says

Favorite Quotes:

She flips open her phone, scrolling through the world's premier international gossip registry— otherwise known as Facebook.

"I was housekeeping staff at the Four Seasons in LA briefly." Ha, that was a nightmare. Cleaning and I are mortal enemies, and will remain so for the rest of my life. But I can't say that to Henry, so I modify the truth a little. "My boss constantly praised the high standard of my work, so you have nothing to worry about there." It's thanks to my acting ability that I pull that lie off so easily. In reality, my boss at the Four Seasons fired me because I always left the rooms messier than I found them. But hell, this is an interview, and a little embellishment is standard. It's not like I'm an inveterate liar or anything.

He proceeds to give me a tour of the house, explaining where all the cleaning equipment and supplies are stored, and giving me pointers on the way he likes things to be organized. I brought a notepad along, so I take exhaustive notes (actually I doodle his face).

"I'm not a maid," I clarify. "I'm a domestic helper and child-care expert." I got those words from the

internet, when I was watching a YouTube video on how to do laundry. They make me sound infinitely more professional, so I'll use them.

You know what they say about judging a book by its cover. Henry might look boring, like historical fiction, but he's actually an erotica novel.

My Review:

I adored this cleverly amusing book from start to finish. While I didn't always love the characters because, well, there were times that Max was an obnoxious, vain, arrogant, and self-absorbed diva, but regardless, Max never failed to hold my attention and she did redeem herself. Henry and his quirky and precocious nephew Lucien were hands-down my favorite characters. But oh, how the mighty had fallen... After years of humiliating and harsh doses of reality, Max gave up on her dreams and was not the same narcissistic person she had been in college. Written from a first person POV of Max, the writing quality was top notch, I was well established in Max's head and was highly entertained by her colorful inner musings and humorous observations. The plot was fresh and entertaining and the storyline was crisp, amusing, insightful, and clever. This was my first experience reading Ms. Clinton's work and I quickly rose to the level of fangirl admiration before concluding the first chapter. I frequently smirked, chortled, gasped and giggle snorted, although there were also several heart-squeezing and angsty moments in between her bumbling misadventures.

Wit & Wonder Books says

ARC provided by the author for an honest review

Henry & Me by Sasha Clinton is a lighthearted second chance romance with a wisecrack of a 9 year old boy who knows too much for his own good! I enjoyed this book immensely.

Max had one hell of a super-ego back in college. Thinking she is Miss. High & Mighty with her dream of stardom and fame set forth in LA. When nerdy Henry Stone asks her out, she rejects him with the flick of her wrists... well, it's more than that! Now, 7 years later, LA in her rearview mirror, Max is back in NYC looking for work. Thanks to her sister in law she becomes a housekeeper/nanny and her first assignment is to non-other... Henry Stone himself!

She can't believe it! The nerd from college has done well... a little too well. His son Lucien keeps her on her toes throughout her days, she never thought life would land her in this position.

In due time, Henry helps Max overcome her obstacles and Max learns about trust and friendship, especially through a very wise Lucien. Feelings become a little too real for both and the chemistry blossoms, but Max must face her past before she moves towards her future.

Henry & Me is a wonderful feel good romance. Max was so kind, thoughtful and passionate and the way he treated Max with so much heart was... just... swoon-worthy! I liked how we saw Max fall from high to low and was able to pick herself up again. Within the book there were a couple of meaningful messages that I believe readers can relate too. This was truly an enjoyable read, I would recommend this book to those who need a great book for the summer!

Kathy Rouchelle says

Henry & Me is a wonderfully written RomCom that will warm your heart just as much as it makes you chuckle. It brings you through the years of Henry and Max, from their first meeting and her shooting down his request for a date because he was a nerd and she was beautiful and going to be a star. But the future is not set in stone and you know how things usually end up with nerds, right?!?!?! Yea...that happens too!

The characters are well written and quite loveable, especially the little precocious Lucian, Henry's 9 year old nephew who is cunning, smart and gives Max a run for her money. Henry, well yes he's a nerd, but he is now a successful and wealthy nerd who has grown into his own (and into his body) and is quite handsome. Max still has her beauty, she's smart (but not Henry kinda of smart...or Lucian for that matter as he reminds her quite often how stupid she is). But her dreams were ruined by the guy she was living with and now she lives with her brother and his wife and needs to get a job to get out of their house. And this is where things take a turn and really get interesting, in both their lives.

This story will have smiling, laughing, frowning, and irritate you a bit at times, but when all is said and done, you will smile and smile big!

Lovely story and I highly recommend this book!

? Jeri's Book Attic ? the Romance Bibliophile ? says

Gosh I had just finished a book where the male lead was such a jerk that it hurt to read and I had to give up. Then starting this book thinking ... with that title and it being a "Romantic Novel" what could go wrong. It appears ... A LOT....

In this case it is not the male lead but the female lead that is such a superficial jerk that it really hurts. I tried reading it like a comedy but I could not keep my mind on this focus...

Let me think a moment if there was one character in that storyline that I liked ...

Ahm

NO.

If I had to choose than maybe Henry would be the remotely most likeable person.

But even he was shallow – sorry.

And in comparison to the previous book with the male lead that was a jerk I can not even say that the storyline of this book was good. Because (sorry to say it so blunt) it wasn't.

Or at least it wasn't really well developed and nothing felt believable

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Jeannie Zelos says

Henry & Me, Sasha Clinton
Review from Jeannie Zelos book reviews

Genre: Romance , Women's Fiction

Well, I loved Sasha's NYC singles 1 (and have just borrowed the next two on KU) so was keen to read this.

Wow, what a b itch Max was back then. she can't just reject him politely but has to humiliate him, astonished that a guy with zits can have the audacity to ask a hot, popular girl like her out. She really decimates him in her refusal, and I so felt for him.

She's convinced she's on her way to the top, but when we catch up with her six years later her plans have gone wildly astray.

Max is a very different person now, much more likable, thinks about others, cares about not hurting people. At first I still wanted to hate her for how awful she was to Henry but she'd changed so much.

That change came at a huge price though, and her career was a casualty of things that happened to her which have left lasting effects. They make acting out of the picture now, her dreams are dust, she can't seem to want to pick herself up and try again, she's too scared.

As for relationships and love, they're a no-go. I felt for her, she'd had a tough time and yet she was still a happy, cheery person even with the problems she was facing.

She's living with her brother and sister in law in a tiny flat, so getting a job and then hopefully a place of her own...well, a share of a place anyway, is priority.

I love her sister in law, such a fantastic person, full of confidence, and always ready to knuckle down and work for what she wants. She's not letting Max slide either, and soon accompanying her to an interview she's arranged.

She's like a tiny steamroller, so forceful everyone cant help but go with her plans.

Its Henry though who wants the housekeeper, and a nanny for his 9 year old nephew Lucien.

I loved that kid, full of clever humour, snark, and ways to play the restrictions his overbearing, over protective mother sets.

She's a heart surgeon and Lucien isn't allowed sweets, sugar, fat, carbs, flavour and ...well.. anything 9 years olds love, but he manages to sneak around Max and get some fun and treats.

He's only 9 but at times feels 29 in experience and ideas, full of knowledge that make him seem so much older. I love his conversations with Max.

So there's Max, housekeeping for Henry, who's lost the zits, made loads of dosh and is a really lovely guy. How could she not fall in love with him, but for her relationships are out. From her past its the one thing she just can't do, it makes her physically ill. Henry though has plans...

Its a great fun read, full of humour, with characters that feel so real. they aren't perfect but flawed and that makes them feel as if I know them, and Henry, well...I'd love to know him!

There some really emotional moments here too, sad ones but also ones that leave you cheering, such as when she meets Rob. Way to go Max!

Stars: four, a real fun read which made me smile, and also had the sadness, heartbreaking emotions, the part that made me wonder if all could come right, that I love.

ARC supplied for review purposes by Netgalley and Publishers

Socially Book Nerd says

High expectations and big dreams was what Max was about. She wanted all the excellent things in and life and a man. When Henry, a nerd and slightly skinny and shabbily dressed asked her out, she turns him down flat. judging the book by it cover instead of opening it and reading the pages. she skimmed over the good parts and put him out of his misery. Years later her expectations didn't turn out the way she wanted. Living with her brother and his wife. she takes the only job she can get a housekeeper and nanny. it just turns out the house she'd be keeping is Henry and his quirky nephew she'd be looking after. She thinks she isn't going to get the job, but to her surprise Henry hires her. Max finds herself drawn to him, he isn't all that he seems to be. maybe she judged him wrong all those years ago. Sweet, Kind, Patient and passionate about his nephew. Henry begins to creep his way into her heart. But, can she let go of the issues that forces her to leave LA for New York and the safety of Her Brothers house?

Barbara says

Love this story! The author has written a wonderful storyline with a several meaningful messages; at least to me. It's an awesome story about how mean college kids can be to those that are different or in a different social standing, about lessons learned the hard way, about never judging a book by it's cover, about never underestimating yourself and to follow your heart or passions and not giving up, about standing up for what you believe and and to remember that things have a way of coming back on you years later and biting you on the butt. Yep all that is wrapped up in a funny witty storyline. The characters and the their banter will have you smiling, laughing and at times wanting to either scream or just shake them to get it together.

It started years ago in college when Max just "knew" she would become a well know actress and Henry, a nerdy prop guy, had the audacity to ask her out. Rather than just say no she was very rude and hateful. Now years later Max has fallen from her high horse and ends up a housekeeper and nanny to Lucien, a very precocious 9 year old. Oh wait I fail to mention she's working for the "rich and successful" Henry Stone! Yep the same Henry she blasted years ago. Let the fun begin (because honestly the spoiled Max knows zip about housekeeping or being a nanny).

I can't recommend this great storyline enough. I suggest 1-clicking it now, sitting back and simply enjoying this fun, flirty yet meaningful story about Max, Henry and a really great supporting cast!

Tanya (Girl Plus Books) says

This was just... not good.

*Max was one of the most unlikable characters I have ever encountered. Shallow, selfish, self-absorbed and immature. If there was supposed to be some kind of redemption by the end of the book... I missed it.

*The dialogue was cringe-worthy.

*Nothing felt believable. For the first 50 pages I wasn't even sure if this was supposed to be some tongue-in-cheek satire or if this was for real. Sadly, I believe this is supposed to be a legit contemporary romance.

*Max's "showdown" with an abusive ex was so ludicrous it was laughable.

*On the plus side, this was incredibly short.

Jo - *.★Reading Is My Bliss★.*** says**

3.5 stars

Henry and Max met at Harvard University, they were both a part of the Theatre Society there.

Max was determined to become an Oscar winning actress in the future and often practised her acceptance speech in the mirror.

Henry had no dreams of Oscars, he was studying in the field of Science and Max saw him as a 'nerd' type of guy. He had a huge crush on Max but that got shot down when she rejected his interest because he was a geek and would never be good enough for a famous actress like her.

My how the tables can turn, years later Max is still struggling to get her big break in acting and currently living with her brother & sister in law. She did make it to L.A. and even won some parts but the world of Hollywood was not what she thought it would be. She is no longer the confident girl she was at University.

Therefore, it is a shock to her system when the job she is interviewing for is to be a housemaid / nanny for Henry - the guy she rejected all those years ago. He is now a very wealthy and successful businessman. Not only that, he grown into a handsome and kind man. A man who has every right to not want to see her, let alone employ her but alas he does anyway.

Henry still carries a flame for Max and is genuinely sad that she didn't get to where she wanted to in life. He believed in her and he still does. She is even more beautiful than he remembered and time has softened her outlook on life & people now.

Max jumps into her new job with enthusiasm, doing three things she loathes, cooking, cleaning and looking after a child - urgh! However, she quickly forms an unlikely bond / friendship with 9 year old Lucien and has the most interesting conversations with this boy. He is an only child and it is obvious he spends a lot of time around adults as he shares his views on every topic you can imagine. He really needed to be given a cupcake and sent outside to play in the dirt.

The more time that Henry and Max spend together, they realise that they are falling for each other. However, Max is battling her own issues and insecurities that she needs to deal with before she can ever move forward in her life. Even if it means rejection for Henry - again.

This was a really sweet second chance love story, with lots of humour and a wise arse 9 year old with insightful adult opinions.

1-Click Addict Support Group says

What if you were given the opportunity to have a do over on some events in your life?

Maxima (Max) Anderson is getting that opportunity with Max Henry, but this time the roles are reversed. This time she on his turf. Eight years ago Henry thought the world of Max but she squashed that by spewing some evil words at him.

As Max works hard to get her life back in check and order, one thing she didn't expect was to run into Henry again and much less to be working for him.

As I read their interaction it had me cringing and feeling bad for Max because of their past but she held her head up high and did what she had to even if it meant that she had to put her pride aside.

Oh that Lucien, Henry's 9 year old nephew, had me laughing- he was too smart for his young age....the curtain tragedy had me laughing!!

Try as they may Henry & Max can't deny the attraction they both feel and they try to not give in but like fireworks once they light up you just stand back and see them pop! -Kara, 4 Stars

Irma says

3.5

"I'm twenty-eight. Unemployed. Mooching off my brother, with no job in sight. In simple words, my life's a wreck."

I liked the premise of the story and I had to read it. It starts in a way that you kind of hate the heroine. The *"What? Did he just ask me -- hot, twenty, in the prime of my beauty, size zero with perfect heart-shaped face and Angelina Jolie lips -- to go out with him?"* says it all.

Reading a bit further made me think that the heroine was really dumb. A nine year old boy knew more than

she did.

Reading a bit further she managed to woo me by her dumbness and I realised that she's not that bad. And I realised that I really did like her. And the story became really sweet and was totally into it.

And that 9 year old boy stole my heart.

Madeline ♥? Romance Bibliophile ♥? says

♥♥ 3.5 New York Stars ♥♥

This was a good vacation read. Max met Henry when he asked her out in college and she brutally rejects him. To be honest, she's a bit of a spoiled brat when she's in college. An aspiring Hollywood actress, she has a majorly inflated ego, and responds to Henry's genuine interest with this: **"What? Did he just ask me -- hot, twenty, in the prime of my beauty, size zero with perfect heart-shaped face and Angelina Jolie lips -- to go out with him?"** Okay, so maybe she's the golden girl of Harvard, and maybe she off to kill it in Hollywood, but this just came off as rude and self-inflated to me.

Which thankfully, gets better. After spending seven years in LA, she falls on hard times and returns to NYC to live with her brother and sister-in-law while she figures out her life. **"I'm twenty-eight. Unemployed. Mooching off my brother, with no job in sight. In simple words, my life's a wreck."** Ji-ae, her sister-in-law, helps her land a job as a housekeeper and childcare for...you guessed it: Henry! He's still pretty nerdy, but has filled out and has since built a successful company.

I really liked Max and Henry together. Max is a little unprepared for taking care of his nephew, Lucien, and ends up having a slew of well-meaning mishaps. Henry provides stability and structure, balancing out her personality well. He helps her get through the hard things that made her leave LA, and she slowly starts to trust him and have some faith in her abilities.

At times I felt like the plot dragged on a bit, and there wasn't much character development besides Max and Henry. There were also a couple typos throughout, but none of these things detracted from the story that much. Overall, I thought that this was a nice lighthearted read, with some good plot twists.

*****ARC generously provided by author for honest review.***

Hope says

ARC review

Henry & Me is a cute story. I read it in one sitting, mainly. There is a precocious kid. There is a nerdy hero. And a few other nerdy characters... Second chance romance, anyone? There is family. There is humility. And there is love. Here are a few things that caught my attention:

- The heroine, Max is dumb. Seriously she is not the brightest lamp in the room. Even the kid she babysits knows it. But she is gullible and super sweet! And she tries to make herself better by learning new things, like imaginary numbers. Math hurts my brain so I applaud that!
- It reads NA...BIG TIME! That might go back to the dumb thing. I'm sorry...is dumb too mean? Max seems very innocent and naïve, even if she has her bitchy moments. Maybe it's because she is a little bit broken? She is an out of work actress who recently came home and abruptly decided to quit acting.
- Henry is smart! That makes up for the d word thing, right?! He's such a nerd. I love nerds. And he loves Max. I knew it from the beginning even if Max did not.
- Henry is WAY too forgiving! She was soooooo mean to him back in college. Like, she really doesn't deserve him, mean.
- There is a little comic relief. Max is an actress and not a housekeeper/nanny, after all. Plus she is always dreaming up her Oscar acceptance speech, which was amusing.
- Diversity! Kind of, sort of, maybe, not really because our protagonists are white. BUT Max's brother is married to a first gen Korean American. And Ji-ae is awesome! She is really there for Max, she shows her how true family is, true friends, act. She is awesome and she plays a great role in this story. And the author touches on Ji-ae's mixed race marriage with Ji-ae and her husband. It reads very true...at least to this white girl.
- Easy to read! I think I read this book in a matter of hours without putting it down. That is saying something coming from a busy mom of 3, who are running her ragged in the summer months.
- The chemistry! Max notices Henry (in present day) and the longing and the realization, the knowing what you want is there and you just have to grab hold of it. But for Max it is not that easy. She is coming off of a tough time; she really has some healing to do.

So, there you have it, Henry & Me is a cute story, a fun read, not for Scandal because of the NA-ish and probably the dumb part but we all know that about Scandal! It's an easy read, by the pool maybe? It could be for you! Also, it's currently on KU.
