



High Maintenance

Jennifer Belle

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National Bestseller

The story of an obsessive love affair between a woman and an apartment.

The publication of her sexy, offbeat, riotous first novel, *Going Down*, won Jennifer Belle comparisons from everyone from Dorothy Parker and Lorrie Moore to J. D. Salinger and Liz Phair. In *High Maintenance*, Belle is back with another brilliantly twisted New York story that is as funny, sad, painful, ridiculous, wild, daring, and lovable as its predecessor.

Set in the manic world of New York real estate, *High Maintenance* is the story of Liv Kellerman, a young woman who's just left her husband and, more important, their fabulous penthouse apartment with its Empire State Building view. On her own for the first time in her life, she relocates to a crumbling Greenwich Village hovel and contemplates her next move. Before long she finds her true calling: selling real estate. With her native eye for prime properties and an ability to lie with a straight face, Liv finds success and soon is swimming with the sharks—the hardcore, cutthroat brokers who'll do anything to close a deal. Along the way she picks up a maniacally ardent architect who likes to bite her, a few hilarious bosses, strange and exasperating clients, and a gun, and brings them with her on her search for the one thing she's really after: a home.

Belle's gift for creating strange and winning characters and her acute observations of both the absurd and the poignant in everyday life are the hallmarks of her fiction. *High Maintenance* is generous and unsparing, tough and exciting and terrifically smart--a hot new property on the market.

High Maintenance Details

Date : Published July 2nd 2002 by Riverhead Books (first published May 7th 2001)

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Author : Jennifer Belle

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Sheryl says

This book took me forever to get through. I could only take small doses of Andrew. What a total a\$\$hole. If I met a man and 30 seconds later he picked me up and dangled me over the balcony threatening to drop me, the LAST thing I would do is sleep with him. But of course there'd be no story if Liv didn't sleep with him. All along I'm thinking get a clue sweetheart--he's a doush in general, but he's telling you he's with someone else. Translation--he's stepping out on the other woman, most likely his WIFE. And Liv just plays along, although annoyed by him, but for (in my opinion) the wrong reasons. Then she finds/reads some of his journal, and that didn't make her drop him like a hot potato. No, she waits til he bites her earlobe off (yes...) to finally realize he's a nutbag. Then he won't leave her alone. Turns out he WAS married, and stepping out w/several other women. Funny how she finally ditches the loser and her life turns around for the better... ugh!

Kris says

I am not sure why this book received so many good reviews. To each his own, I suppose. I keep on reading.... waiting and hoping. But it just never gets better. The characters are all so bizarre and creepy. I can not connect with any of them. These are people I would never want to deal with. I am not even sure at this point (halfway through the book) and I am even going to finish reading it.

Tamara says

I just finished reading High Maintenance by Jennifer Belle. What a great book. Loved the whole story from beginning to end. So much funny quirkiness in the main character it really keeps you laughing. I definitely recommend this book for those that like a light read that makes you smile.

bookczuk says

Like the old commercial for Alka Seltzer, "I can't believe I read the whole thing." Chick Lit but not even a feel good kind of read. I kept reading because I was promised it was clever, funny and well done. I didn't find it any of those things.

Kali says

This was one of the worst books I've ever read. I should have known better , but it was \$1.39 at goodwill and I needed an easy read, what I got was one of the most painful 'literary' (I barely want to use that word) experiences ever! Total crap.

Nikki says

Remember the way you drew houses as a kid? A square with a triangle on top, a door, and two windows? This book is a lot like that. The framework for a decent story is there, but Belle only gives you the bare minimum when it comes to characterization and story. At best, it's mildly amusing. At worst, it's a complete waste of time.

Alison says

Awful awful awful awulf awful awful awful awful. Main character was ridiculously shallow and selfish and dishonest and most of the other characters were just weird, but not in any way that made them interesting. The plot felt like it jumped around with no real purpose. Awful awful awful awful awful. I didn't even finish it. I couldn't.

Sherri Bryant says

I wasn't sure what to make of this story when I first started it. I have to hand it to our heroine, Liv. I would have thrown in the towel and gone crawling back to Jack after taking one look at that rat-hole apartment she ends up in. \$1,200 a month! Yikes! LOL

Liv surprises us all by coming out on top in all areas. I think some payback for the ear was in order though. I've never read anything else by this author but I will definitely look out for anything else by her.

Angel Perkins says

Dismal. It was a chore to actually finish the book. I suppose it did, eventually, get vaguely interesting but only in a "Does this EVER get BETTER?" sort of way. The characters are stagnant and shallow. There is no actual direction to the story itself. You wander aimlessly through the pages, much like Liv wanders aimlessly through life; waiting for something to happen.

Sheryl says

Have you read Belle's, Little Stalker, yet? If so, High Maintenance has the same feel about it. I forgot how much I loved Jennifer Belle's light, quirky...and ever so chic lit writing style that I must say I wasn't all that enamored with the story and/or any of the characters right off the bat. I had to stop and think back to the author's quirkiness from Little Stalker....and then I really started to enjoy it. Where does Belle come up with this stuff??? It was just one crazy, yet hilarious catastrophe after another!! The protagonist, Liv Kellerman, and person to which the title refers to, definitely delivers!! This is one High Maintenance chick; one that I

could never be friends with, but one that I love hearing stories about! Pick this one up when you need a break from all of the heavy stuff you've been reading and just have fun with Liv and her crazy lifestyle in Manhattan....laugh with her, not at her!!

Ashley says

Liv is kind of an idiot...I just wanted to punch her in the nose through most of it...I mean c'mon...he bites her ear off? What? Thats a bit far-fetched even for New York! And she goes to a Vet to get it fixed? It was just too much for me! I would have never gone out with that wierd Andrew person, she deserves to get a nut-job! Insane...no wonder Jack cheated on her she is clearly and idiot!

Tiara says

Definitely didn't like this as much by the end as I did in the beginning, but I stayed up all night to finish it. A pampered woman learns to take care of herself after her divorce from her cheating husband. This got creepy toward the middle. I mean, swallowing Clue pieces for no good reason? Freezing sperm in her freezer, in the ice tray? Carrying around a glock she found? It was so pathetic I had to keep reading. Good God, if that's the kind of insanity divorce promises, I think I'll stay with my husband forever, thank you.

Nascha says

I picked up this book on a whim. Purchased it from a used book table on the streets of Manhattan. In the end, I am happy I did so. It was a fun book to read. Great combination of life in the city, a look into real estate and chick lit. A light read, great for the summer, but still memorable. In fact, I still think about this book and it's been a few years since I read it. Maybe it's because I love real estate and the main character, Liv is a real estate agent.

There were some really funny moments, the main characters are quite zany and laughable. And the apartment hunting in Manhattan is so realistic it's great how she captured it. But the ending was really sweet and I think I related to this book because I really felt like I grew with Liv as she came into her own by the end of the novel. I was very fond of the ending.

Danielius (Debesyala) says

Pradžia - lame.

Kažkiek po pradžios - super meil? s romanas. ?traukiantis, ?domus, etc.

Ties viduriu - OMD kaip nuobodu...

Toliau - nebaigiau skaityti.

Išvada - skaityti nepatariu. Niekam. Rimtai. Fe.

Cici says

I'm giving up on this one. I'm on page 99 and I think it's terrible. I rarely quit on books, but I can't read anymore of this:

Liv, the main character is so flakey and immature... first she starts working for this blind guy and lies to him about things even unbuttons her shirt in front of him because he can't see anyways. I'm pretty sure by the end of the book his "secret" is he's really not blind...

Then she starts seeing this idiot that's in a relationship and he's really disrespectful. I know that won't go well, he tried to throw her off a building!

THEN she finds this gun randomly laying somewhere and TAKES it. It makes her feel powerful, like a secret agent or something. She sees this little boy with a toy gun and aims her REAL gun at him, trying to be funny and aims it into her mouth so the boy does the same with his toy gun...

She's an adult with a 5 year old brain.

She's also jealous of things that aren't real like statues, characters in stories, mannequins, turkeys.. This girl is messed up.
