



# A Bump in the Road

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## A Bump in the Road Maureen Lipinski

When twenty-seven-year-old event planner and blogger Clare Finnegan got married, she didn't mind moving out of the city. After all, a suburban existence didn't necessarily equal domesticity, book club parties, and a subscription to *Martha Stewart Living*. But when, after a weekend in Vegas, Clare discovers she's pregnant, she is thrown into a world where eating lunchmeat is equivalent to smoking crack and maternity clothes appear to have been molested by a BeDazzler. In the midst of her slow transition from beer bottles to baby bottles, Clare juggles burgeoning Internet stardom, plans Chicago's biggest black-tie gala, wrangles her traditional in-laws who are scandalized by her every choice, and attempts to keep the peace between her two feuding best friends. Not only funny but smart, sassy, and witty, to boot, this is a debut novel that will have you laughing for a good nine months.

## A Bump in the Road Details

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Author : Maureen Lipinski

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# From Reader Review A Bump in the Road for online ebook

## Donna Munoz says

Smartly written and super funny. This was a quick read for me while on break and just what I needed. It's a bit dated now (as old as my twins), but it only makes the references even funnier. Loved the narrative voice. I'm probably not the target audience for this, but it still pulled me in.

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## Michelle says

How absolutely adorable is the first book from Maureen Lipinski? Blogger extraordinaire and event planner Clare Finnegan finds herself unexpectedly pregnant and we go with her on the journey as she deals with weight gain, mom jeans, annoying in-laws, feuding best friends, crazy co-worker from hell, sisterly bonds, and the discovery that her cat is a klepto drag queen. It was hard to put this book down once I started to read it and I found myself up late at night just trying to read one more chapter. Maureen Lipinski creates memorable and relatable characters that are humanly flawed but instantly likable. I am anxiously awaiting her sequel coming out later this month.

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## Melissa says

If you are in your first trimester of pregnancy and miserable and whiny (as I was when I read it), then it is manageable. Otherwise, I wouldn't read this. It was a wake-up call for how negative and cranky I must sound and was a constant reminder to STOP complaining. When her and her husband get unexpectedly pregnant, her life has to change - and fast. But get over it. It's obviously a fiction book, so you wouldn't take advice from it, but I DEFINITELY wouldn't take advice from this character, or any of the characters.

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## Kristen says

This was a great book. I really connected to the main character, Clare, and her surprise addition to her family. You get to see Clare in many aspects of life - as a friend to her college gal pals and maneuvering between the single friend and the friend with the White Picket Fence life. I could definitely understand the dilemma she faces.

Next you see Clare with her in laws, particularly her mother in law and sister in law and the dynamics within that "sisterhood"...hilarious. Clare at work, Clare at play. Its a fun 300 plus page romp about the ups and downs of maternity. I kinda wish the author included more social taboos like random people touching the prego, or wanting to plan the child's life not just get on the expectant momma's nerves (maybe that's just me).

Its a great summer read.

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### **Randi says**

this book is HYSTERICAL it was referred by Jen Lancaster on her Blog. I would definately reccomend it for anyone in their late 20's early 30's who are on the fence about having children, It's just a hysterical journey of an accidental pregnancy for someone who didn't know when or if they wanted kids but the 9 months inbetween just make you laugh so hard & realize your not crazy, everyone thiks the same insane things!

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### **Kristi Brown says**

This book was so cute and fun to read...the only drag was the constant, and I mean constant and repetitive passages about the state of being pregnant. There could have been more event planner disaster horror stories & less pregnant stories. I'm just saying...

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### **Bridget Bailey says**

This is my first book by this author and I really enjoyed her chick lit style. It was really believable as someone who is young and having their first kid to go from enjoying drinking and hanging out with friends and being married to being pregnant and not enjoying everything you once did before and all of the lovely symptoms associated with pregnancy. This was a cute book, a little predictable as most chick lit books are but still an enjoyable read especially for those who are pregnant or were pregnant, you can commiserate with her.

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### **Melinda Elizabeth says**

This book left me confused a lot of the time. It was written as though there was an assumption that you know the characters, although I don't think an established series is the case as I wasn't able to determine if this is a sequel or something similar. A lot of the time I was left wondering why I should know all of this information about characters personalities, in fighting and jokes. It made the reader feel a little bit isolated from what was going on in the story.

Another beef I have with this book is the blog/diary format. There's a lot of good that such a style can do for a book, however I think in this case it left the author rather open to the opportunity for unfortunate writing, with the excuse "well that's how 27 year olds talk". It gives the impression that Claire is a particularly poor blog writer, which is odd considering she boasts about a large reading audience. I certainly wouldn't want to read her blog if it was written in the same way as some of her journal entries.

There are relationships that are discussed in the novel that appear to have no satisfying resolution. Reese is the prime example of this. We understand her to be Stepford-esque in her appearance, manner and household duties, but whilst Reese and Claire skip around the marriage woes discussion many times (too many if you ask me) there never seems to be a reason for her misery, and there's no outcome from this ongoing theme in the novel. And you should all know by now that I dislike having to read something that's not going to be

resolved by the end of the book - it makes me think it's just a filler, of which this book already has far too much of.

If you wanted to read something along this vein I'd almost be tempted to recommend Miley Cyrus' twitter feed, she seems to have far more witty things to say than the protagonist in this novel. Good luck with this one!

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### **Kricket says**

bridget jones, stripped of her sense of humor, meets dooce and gets pregnant.  
but it kept me occupied while sick in bed.

\*the one thing i liked about this is that the narrator still enjoys a glass of wine every now and then while pregnant. in any country besides the US, this is normal.

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### **Jennifer Daiker says**

Maureen Lipinski is brilliant in this tale of the unexpected pregnancy. The main character Clare was the perfect blend of sarcasm and just plain old fashion humor. Going through the journey with her and her nicknames for the little baby inside her will keep you chuckling all the way until the end. During the process you will either remember the time when you were pregnant and realte, or almost think about postponing pregnancy for a few years. That is until the end when she realizes what an awesome journey and experience pregnancy really is.

Maureen Lipinski is a riot and after reading that she became pregnant shortly after it just made the story that much more heart-warming.

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### **Elsa Ramos says**

Muito Divertido, identifiquei-me bastante com esta historia.

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### **Amy says**

#### **Laugh out loud funny!**

So entertaining to read - I actually laughed out loud several times! The author totally nailed the 'pregnancy experience '! A perfect beach read!

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## Carly G says

The second book that I read this school year was *A Bump in the Road* by Maureen Lipinski. I decided to take a break from the dramatic books that I usually read and try something funny, something that would make me laugh. That's exactly that this book did. The main character in this book is Clare Finnegan, a party planner in Chicago. Clare and her husband of one year, Jake, found out that a crazy weekend in Vegas was going to lead to a crazy nine months. They're having a baby. The book is a diary of how she gives up nights of partying to get ready for her baby.

As funny as this book is, I wouldn't recommend it to everyone. I'd say that the target audience for this book is girls sixteen to upper twenties. Girls in this age range have an idea of how terrifying it would be to find out that you're pregnant and your whole life is going to change. The reason that I'd say anyone older than twenty six or twenty seven might not enjoy this book as much as someone in the age range might, is because of the way it's written. It's written just like a diary and since it was a comedy, I think the writing style worked perfectly. Older women might want more of an intense story. Besides, women in their thirties that are pregnant probably weren't surprised like Clare was.

Lucky for me, I haven't had to worry about any pregnancy scares and I know that I won't worry about it until I've settled down and decided that it's the right time to have a baby. So I can't say that I know what Clare was going through when it came to facing an unexpected pregnancy, but I do know what it's like to be faced with something life altering. When I was younger, my brother was diagnosed with kidney disease. Not only did it change his life but it changed my life to. It really changed my whole family's life. We went from being worry free and ignorant to the problem with my brother to being fearful of what was to come, just like Clare. When Clare found out she was pregnant the first thought that ran through her head was, "Does this mean there's something growing inside of me?" (Lipinski 34). She was trying to wrap her mind around the fact that she was pregnant and I was trying to wrap my mind around the fact that my little brother had a kidney that didn't work.

Overall, it was a really great read. It was a refreshing change of pace for me and that was nice.

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## Obsidian says

I really would have liked this story more if the author, Maureen Lipinski, had spent more time setting up the backstory of our main character and secondary characters. That through me so much while reading. At one point I did go back to Amazon to make sure I wasn't missing a first book or something. But nope, this is the first book in the series. Since I read the sequel right after finishing this, I realized that book (*Not Ready for Mom Jeans*) ended up causing me to dislike the first book more than I did and dropped this down to three stars.

The main character is Clare Finnegan who has been married for several months at the start of this story. Clare and her husband Jake (who I can't even remember his name at this point...shows how much he stuck with me--I did go back and look it up though) are flying home from Vegas and thanking the gods they don't have kids. Of course the gods smile and then Clare ends up getting pregnant by accident (birth control + antibiotics = not a good idea to have relations). Clare and Jake go through a series of emotions since they are

in their late 20s and were not really thinking of children yet. They do proceed with the pregnancy and go through the ups and downs of expecting their first child while dealing with their families, friends, and jobs.

For the most part I found this book slightly funny. Clare has a unique voice. She is an event planner and also a blogger. Apparently a blogger that gets 20,000 views a day (I feel like that is unheard of) with her providing details to her readers about her day to day life. I wish that we had gotten some excerpts from Clare's blog or anything that showcased her writing, since I was flummoxed why she would be so popular. There are allusions to her blog taking off, but that is one of the weird passages that this book contains that makes you believe there is another book before this.

The secondary characters just fit character types. Clare's two best friends Reese and Julie (who haven't spoken in like a year after some blow up during Clare's bachelorette party) are the type A super mom/wife and the party girl. She hangs out with them while also judging them. I also ended up not caring for Jake too much since he made cracks about Julie and her upbringing. Apparently if you live in a mobile home you are white trash and that's that. God. Forget not caring about him, he and his sanctimonious family sucked.

The writing was so-so. As I said there are whole passages alluding to things that Lipinski writes about that in a way that makes it seem you should already know about these things. It drove me up the wall and took me out of the story every time. I was wondering if this book came with a prologue and even went back to the title page at one point and worked me way through again.

The book takes place in Chicago and I really wish we had gotten more flavor of the town in this story. One reason why I love Jen Lancaster and Stacy Ballis's book is that they make Chicago come alive. The only settings you read about are Clare's workplace, her apartment with her hubby, and Reese's home.

The ending has Clare delivering her first child and wondering what is next.

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## **Marie Carlino says**

Another pregnancy story :) Hurrah!

This is a story about a successful career woman who enjoys her job and the freedom that comes from being child- less (parties, shopping for expensive designer clothes etc). All of this changes after a weekend away in Vegas that resulted in a massive hangover. This hangover ended up lasting 9 months and had some unusual symptoms mixed in with the norm. Nausea, food cravings and bloating aren't too strange but what about needing to pee all the time? Wake up Clare you're not just hung-over, you are also pregnant.

This book is quite funny and has an unexpected ending. \*SPOILER\* they were expecting a boy but it actually ended up being a girl!

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