



# What You Wanted

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## **What You Wanted** Mina V. Esguerra

It's the classic one-night stand: Beach wedding, bridesmaid, groom's friend. When Andrea and Damon meet, sparks fly, and they give in to the attraction. Sounds simple, but Andrea's still getting over someone, and Damon thought he'd be hooking up with another person that night. It could still be simple, really, if they chalk it up to a weekend tryst and move on.

But one night becomes lunch the week after, and then dinner the next weekend...and before they know it, Andrea and Damon are still together, dealing with the feelings they know they might still have for other people. How hard can it be to get exactly what you want? How do you even know what it is?

## **What You Wanted Details**

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## From Reader Review What You Wanted for online ebook

### J.A. Jimenez says

This is actually my first Mina Esguerra's book and hopefully not the last one either. I would really love to read some more because having to read a book with Philippines' setting on it is a bit refreshing, the familiarity with the places as to the names somehow felt like home. The story is good, and as well as the characters. Full review on my blog soon.

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### Laís Arjona says

4.5/5.0

I LOVED this story! Andrea and Damon are such a wonderful couple, the way they fell in love was so natural and honest, I really liked how open they were with each other, and how they didn't care about what other people said about them.

I am trash for women like Andrea, she lives her life the way she wants, she's honest to herself and to other people as well, she chooses to have an active love life and she doesn't think less of herself, or admit people to think she's less than great. I didn't like the way she talks about the "Ice Princess", but it didn't really bother me, cause she wasn't judging other women for real, she just didn't like the situation Georgina had put Damon.

Thad was the typical guy that thinks he can count on a queue of women waiting for him. (view spoiler) Anyway, I loved Andrea and Damon's spontaneity and calm, they're just two people falling in love and it's okay to deal with each other's past, because they're actually enjoying the process of growing to love someone.

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### Janus the Erudite Artist says

**"It's my life, that's all.**

**I won't quit. I will see where this leads."**

What You Wanted follows the story of Julie's sister Andrea. In case you're not aware, Julie is the main character of Mina V. Esguerra's That Kind of Guy. While you don't need to read TKoG to understand What You Wanted, it lets readers get more in tune with Julie and Anton's presence in Andrea and Damon's story. Now back to Andrea and Damon. They met during Julie and Anton's wedding. There's a short story of that event, Wedding Night Stand, which I have not read yet. So if you're tempted to pick this book up, be rest assured that you can easily see how comfortable our protags are even if you haven't read WNS.

Andrea's perception of her love life is kind of sad. She feels like she's the girl you date that makes you realize you're tired of the game and ready to settle down - only with the next person after her. It makes me want to come sit by her side, give a hug and try to comfort her by saying things like: "Aw, sweetie, it's not like that."

I can't quite pick out Damon though. Anton, being the only character who knows Damon well enough, perceives him as a womanizer. (His friends don't count as much because that's well, biased?) And yet I didn't see that kind of Damon in this story, other than what Geraldine says, and I'm not one to always believe what

others say in real life, plus I always do try to see the good in people, I apply the same perception with book characters. So yeah, I don't know if I like him or not.

Denial. It's the one word that places how Andrea and Damon have been at with what is really going on in their relationship. They can't possibly not feel that they're falling for each other! Why else would they let this whole charade keep going any longer than it should? So yes, denial. And deny all they want, we know how this is going to end. Although not a particular favorite of mine, it's a cute story. Unconventional considering how they met, but it goes to show that there are so many ways to fall in love.

*\*Thank you, Mina V. Esguerra and Jothee Tan for granting my request to view an advance copy of What You Wanted.*

For more of my reviews, please visit my blog:

The Blair Book Project @ [www.theblairbookproject.blogspot.com](http://www.theblairbookproject.blogspot.com)

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### **Bianca Mori says**

Andrea and Damon are screwed up but I love them.

No, really. What makes this book (and its companion novella Wedding Night Stand) so compelling to me is its portrayal of two people, who are smart, and flawed (and know just how flawed they are, because smarts), and get together in a less-than-ideal way--and yet find their own path to Happily Ever After. How they get there is well earned, and true to the characters, with no shortcuts or sappy, history-erasing Big Moments. So, so, so good.

The writing is sharp and infinitely quotable. Andrea is a hoot. The moment she tells Damon, "Am I the button holding up your pants?" I wanted her to be my BFF.

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### **Solaine Chioro says**

Ainda bem que eu, apesar de não ter gostado tanto do conto sobre a Andrea e o Damon, decidi dar uma chance pra essa novella, porque eu adorei!!! Não foi nivel Better At Weddings Than You, mas foi quase lá. Eu gostei muito da dinâmica da Andrea e do Damon aqui e, claro, fui muito trouxa com os dois em vários momentos. A Andrea em si é uma personagem que dá gosto de ver, sabe? Essa mulher ~espírito livre~ que só tá vivendo a vida dela numa boa e tá curtindo uns bons momentos com esse carinho aí que conheceu. O desenvolvimento da relação deles foi bem natural, adorei. Me incomodou um pouco sobre como ela tava sempre chamando a outra lá (esqueci o nome dela já, rs) de Ice Princess, mas, sei lá, era uma situação estranha. ENFIM, adorei e recomendo.

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### **Catherine says**

Review is already up in my blog! Check it here!

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## Agay Llanera says

Reading a Mina Esguerra book that's set in the PH is like coming home. I didn't have to stretch my imagination to know exactly where the characters are, or what they're eating or doing. But this book is special in a way that it could have been morally conscious, but it was not. It was the take-it-or-leave, unapologetic writing that got me hooked, as well as the strong characters, who might have been bait for judgment, but who couldn't care less what we thought. I especially like Andrea's motivation for "doing the right thing," not because it's what society dictates, but because she just didn't want to do it anymore.

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## Jay Tria says

I received an ARC of this book from the author. This does not affect my opinion of the work. I'm not one to pick up a book with a hookup type of premise. I've never quite rooted for a heroine who slept around and then somehow found true love in that hot mess of first dates and random guys. It takes a lot for me to believe that. Thus it says a lot that I absolutely loved *What You Wanted*.

I liked Andrea. She's not my kind of girl and I'm not what she'd call one of her people. But her frankness and her ability to see things as they are, behind the veil of people's everyday bullshit, were all utterly refreshing. Of course the very way she perceives the world and the 'rules' of the dating game, and even the way she looks at herself lead her to exactly the kind of trap she'd been hoping to avoid. But that's a journey I think you should take with her when you read the book.

I liked Damon too. I'd be shit scared of someone like him at first. Smart, rich, devilishly handsome, and all colors of messed up for the wrong girl for so long. But he's honest too, or he tries very hard to be. I'd say more about how awesome he is, and how well Damon and Andrea work together, but I don't want to spoil anything for you. As I said, go pick up the book and find out for yourself.

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## Geri Reads says

### 3.5 stars!

I was a bit torn about this. I certainly loved Andrea. She loves sex and hooking up and she makes no apologies for it which I loved. However, the resolution felt a little rushed to me.

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## Chachic says

Originally posted at Chachic's Book Nook.

Andrea and Damon first meet in the short story *Wedding Night Stand*, and their story continues in *What You*

*Wanted*. This title is the latest in Mina V. Esguerra's Chic Manila collection, which has romance books featuring female twenty-something professionals in Metro Manila. Not too long ago, I was also a female twenty-something working in an office in Manila so these books are fun for me to read because I can relate to them. They feel realistic, like the stories can happen to someone I know. Which was why I dove into *What You Wanted* sooner rather than later. I also like how Mina keeps partnering with Filipino fashion bloggers for her book covers. *What You Wanted's* cover was designed by Tania Arpa, featuring fashion blogger Rhea Bue. Note to self: start posting OOTD shots so I can potentially be featured on a book cover.

I enjoyed Andrea and Damon's story of how they met and got together in *Wedding Night Stand*. I thought it was cute how they danced around their flirtation. *What You Wanted* is a continuation of their story and because they already got to spend a weekend together, the two of them are much more comfortable around each other. And I really liked that about them, how their sort-of-relationship felt really cozy. I liked both Andrea and Damon's personalities and I thought they were great together. Andrea has a bit of wild side and seems like a fun person to hang out with. She likes doing spontaneous things like suddenly going off to a secluded beach hours away from the city by herself. She also tended to be flighty when it comes to relationships and the one time she was ready to become serious with someone, she got hurt pretty badly. Damon is the type of guy that seems like he has everything going for him - handsome, smart, polished and financially well-off. And yet the girl he's been interested in for the past two years keeps dragging him along. For two people who haven't had a stellar record in the relationship department, Andrea and Damon sure handled things well between the two of them. But maybe it's because they tried to keep things casual - heck, it was supposed to be just a one night stand. That just kept being extended.

Like I said, I really liked how cozy Andrea and Damon were together. From how willing they were to meet the other person's friends and family, to how Andrea kept sleeping over, to how they had their meals together, to how they kept meeting around their office area... it just felt like they were meant to be together because it seemed effortless and drama-free (when it's just the two of them). The drama only happens when other people come into the picture. It made me root for them as a couple, and I wanted them to get over their hang ups and just be together. Overall, *What You Wanted* probably isn't my favorite Mina V. Esguerra romance because while I liked Andrea and feel like I could be friends with someone like her, I couldn't relate to her in the sense that I can't see even a sliver of myself in her. I probably have more in common with her older sister Julie, who is more steady and acts a bit like an old maid ("*manang*"). Damon, however, might be one of my favorite Mina V. Esguerra heroes. He's not perfect but even his imperfections seem appealing. Plus he loves to eat good food! Always a plus in my book.

The author's Chic Manila books can be read as standalones but the latter books have cameos from the characters in earlier books. In *What You Wanted*, Damon and Andrea meet at a wedding where he's a co-worker of the groom and she's the sister of the bride. That was the wedding of Anton and Julie from *That Kind of Guy*. Damon also lives in the same condo as Ethan and Moira from *Welcome to Envy Park*. I think these little overlaps make it a little bit more fun to read the books because it makes the reader feel like all the characters are connected somehow. *What You Wanted* was an interesting addition to this collection and I'm looking forward to reading more romances set in Manila.

My reviews of the rest of the Chic Manila titles:

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**Jamie (Books and Ladders) says**

See this review and more on Books and Ladders!

### **Actual Rating: 3.5\***

This was really cute. There were some parts that I didn't like the narrative but I 100% understand Andrea's perspective and actions. I really connected with the character and thought it was just a fun story in general.

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### **K.J. Charles says**

I am wolfing down the Chic Manila series. What I think I like most is the heroines, who are uncompromisingly flawed, and don't apologise for existing.

Andrea is a bit of a love 'em and leave 'em girl until she falls in love with her best friend Greg. They have sex at last, she thinks this is it, he tells her he doesn't want to trammel her free spirit and marries someone else. This is the story of how Andrea and a one-night stand from a wedding (Damon, who has been pursuing another woman for years) set out to show her ex and his never-was what they threw away or are missing. So far so romance set-up, but it's never by the numbers, because Andrea really hurts; because Greg isn't a 2D villain and his marriage is complicated too; because we see how all the personalities play into a complicated snarl of emotions where it isn't as simple as Good Girl or Evil Ex and your friends can hurt you and still be friends.

Chic without boring billionaires, emotionally complicated, with strong varied heroines who own their choices, this entire series is a joy. I finished this, downloaded another one and glommed it right away.

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### **Isabel (Sab The Book Eater) says**

Perfect mood setter for the week ahead. Better review next time, when I've gathered all my feels.

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### **Sue (Hollywood News Source) says**

I have few issues with it, for one, the writing could use a lot of furnishing. Overall, I really enjoyed reading this book. It was on point and short-lived experience.

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### **Tina says**

The moment I started reading Mina V. Esguerra's latest book, ***What You Wanted***, I thought: *I missed this*. I've read some of Mina's Spotlight New Adult books and liked them enough, but there was something that felt like coming home when she's writing something based in Manila again. And it helped that I read and liked the prequel to this book, ***Wedding Night Stand***, so I was pretty excited to have first dibs on this book.

Andrea met Damon at her sister's wedding. It was just supposed to be a one-night stand, but days and weeks after the wedding, Andrea finds herself seeking out Damon, seeing and spending more time with him. But it's

not a completely simple romance as both of them have issues of their own: Damon is pining over Geraldine, known as the ice queen who he has been pursuing for a while, and Andrea is still nursing a broken heart from Thad, who dropped her after a weekend together and got married to someone else. Andrea and Damon agreed to use each other to get what they want...but what do they really want, anyway?

I wasn't even halfway through and I was already charmed by Andrea and Damon, and I was rooting for the two of them to get what they wanted, whatever that was! I mean, I sort of knew what it was, being the reader, but I had such a good time watching things unfold for the two of them. I was a little surprised with how some of Andrea's angst with Thad resonated with me but I'm not going to go there because that's in the past. Let's just say I get what she meant about that, and how awful it feels when there's a Naomi. I remember feeling all ranty whenever Andrea was alone with Thad and how I wanted to shoo him away. (But other than that, I still think I am more of a Julie, haha)

And speaking of Damon! I liked Damon a lot. There's so much about him that's easy to like, in an alpha-male kind of way. Like how he was focused, and how he didn't resort to manipulation and instead just proved himself to show that he deserved to get what he wanted. I liked how he seemed so dangerous and in some ways, wild, but also can be pretty gentle at times. I would probably be intimidated like hell if I meet someone like Damon in person, but I think I will still be secretly watching him. :P (Haha, see, I'm a Julie.) I liked him so much that I told Mina that it seemed like there's competition for Lucas of Fairy Tale Fail's spot in my heart. Gasp!

I really liked ***What You Wanted***. While most of the story revolved around the "extended" hook-up, there's a lot more in their story that gives reader a chance to see how characters like Andrea and Damon change, find out, and eventually, get what they really wanted. :)

Also - lots of food in this book, so yeah, don't read this with an empty stomach. Sushi, grilled fish, juice, and siopao. :D

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Also posted at I Like It Dog-Eared

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