



## The Manic Pixie Dream Boy Improvement Project

*Lenore Appelhans*

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Riley lives in TropeTown, where everyone plays stock roles in novels. Riley, a Manic Pixie Dream Boy, is sent to group therapy after going off-script. Riley knows that breaking the rules again could get him terminated, yet he feels there must be more to life than recycling the same clichés for readers' entertainment. Then he meets Zelda, a Manic Pixie Dream Girl (Geek Chic subtype), and falls head over heels in love. Zelda's in therapy too, along with several other Manic Pixies. But TropeTown has a dark secret, and if Riley and his fellow Manic Pixies don't get to the bottom of it, they may all be terminated.

## **The Manic Pixie Dream Boy Improvement Project Details**

Date :

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Author : Lenore Appelhans

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Genre : Young Adult, Romance



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# From Reader Review The Manic Pixie Dream Boy Improvement Project for online ebook

## Molly says

There was so much to love about this book, but there was also so much to critique. Overall, I enjoyed it, and it had some really great progressive moments despite having room to grow in other areas.

A brief summary: Riley is the only Manic Pixie Dream BOY in Trope Town, and he is in trouble. He's been a little too negative around his authors, so he is ordered to therapy where he can learn to behave like the proper supporting role that he is. Trouble arises, however, when he finds himself infatuated with another Manic Pixie Dream Girl in town only to discover she's also in his therapy group. Oh yeah, and the whole trope is at risk of getting retired, so there's that too. What's a Manic Pixie Dream Boy to do?

### Things I Loved:

- The discussion of the writer's creative process with their characters -- It was very imaginative how these characters "go to work" when authors need them for a novel. It was a really unique concept, and it was described very well! I wish there was more of this throughout the whole novel as it was one of my favorite parts.
- The creativity and "meta" element of it -- Trope Town, the "Developed" characters, etc.
- The ending written for the fictitious book within this book -- I don't want to spoil it, but it's a nice progressive ending!
- The diversity of some of the characters -- There are some hetero romances, but there's also some mention of LGBTQ+ romances, and as a teacher, I like putting more relationship diversity in the hands of my students. This book would easily make all readers feel included.

### Things I Didn't Like:

- Some underdevelopment in description -- At one point, the book talks about how authors too often forget to describe the setting and the characters are working in a blank room... I actually felt like that happened a lot in THIS book. While there was plenty of description of the characters' outfits and hair and whatnot, I felt like there was much to be desired about what the unique world they live in looked like.
- At some points it got really preachy -- My husband and I love watching "The Good Place" which is a fairly philosophical sitcom; however, sometimes my husband complains that there is too much preaching to the audience about philosophy and the meaning of life. I kept coming back to those complaints while I was reading this book. Before reading, I was already familiar with the author's criticism of the Manic Pixie trope and that too often these characters are underdeveloped, formulaic, and overused. However, I felt like I just kept getting hit over the head with it throughout the book, and it became really redundant. The book itself sold me on the idea of the trope and its limitations, so I didn't need preaching within the book about it as well.
- Overt criticism of other authors -- There's a character named Nebraska who was a breakaway start after being in a book and mysteriously dying... The developed character in the story spent the rest of his novel pining after her and wondering what happened... The criticism here is pretty blatant, and while I see its merit, there's something I don't like about tearing down another author in your book. I like the idea of authors supporting authors.
- The multiple plots -- I don't mind having an "A" story line and a "B" story line to a novel (it's what makes a novel interesting and complex), but I felt like the story lines all suffered because there were too many things to focus on and not enough development to any which one. There's the Riley love story, there's the Riley friendship story/therapy, there's the mystery of Finn (Riley's best friend), there's the potential retirement of

the trope, and there's Riley at work... I wish some things had been cut so that I could feel more invested in the others.

- Character development -- Sometimes I was left confused because the characters were a certain trope, but then they were "playing a role" so it was hard to tell if the characters ever amounted more than the tropes they were assigned to. There were also some times that Riley would tell readers that he was a certain way because of his trope, but then he would also say he didn't know how to behave otherwise because of his trope... I wanted to know who he really wanted to be then if I wasn't seeing the real him.

Overall, I enjoyed it, but I wish the author had cut some things in order to expand more of the truly unique areas like the characters at work. I felt like that was one of the most meta moments, and it was one of the most quirky things about this book, so if there was more time spent there, I think this could have been a serious hit. It's still a fun book, and I will certainly recommend it to my readers, but there is room for growth. The author could easily write another book about another side of Trope Town, focusing on fewer plot lines, and I would love to read it!! She's started building this unique world, and I would love to see her continue developing it!

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Lerner Publishing Group through NetGalley. Opinions expressed in this review are completely my own. The book will be published on March 5, 2019.

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### **Jypsy says**

What can I say about this book? The Manic Pixie Dream Boy Improvement Project is definitely different from anything I've ever read. That's not necessarily a bad thing, though. I liked the story for its oddness and quirkiness. It's about Riley. He's a MPDB trope in Tropetown. He is going to group therapy because he went off script. While there, he meets a Manic Pixie Dream Girl. Turns out, the Manic Pixie Dream tropes are going to be retired. So, off they go to save the day. The story is everything I expected: ironic, typical, repetitive and satirical. Of course it's kind of ridiculous. It's supposed to be. I love the idea. I only wish the author would have given more space to Tropetown. It makes me think about Roger Rabbit going to Toon Town. Also, I didn't love the ending. It could have been a bit more tidy with some closure. Overall, I enjoyed the book. It's not for everyone, but if you want to read an ironic book about an ironic town, try this one. Thanks to NetGalley for an arc in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Flavia says**

★★???

(2 stars)

(I received this book for free for an honest review off of Netgalley)

I'm a little stumped on writing this review, hence my lack of attempt at coming up with a more snappy title. This is a very tricky book to review, on account of it being extremely meta about... books. And itself. Is it satire the plot, world, and characters are lacking? Is it on a winking purpose that the romance and story arc is so predictable and simple? Is the writing style meant to lampshade the meta nature of the story?

What I can say for certain is my own levels of interacting with it, and I didn't end up liking this book much. The meta nature makes it far harder for me to say 'this ain't a great book'. We'll see how I can best talk about this.

I think right off the back I should mention I LOVE- or, loved- tropes and trope critique. I was an avid reader of TVtropes in middle to high school, often browsing random pages of every piece of media I'd ever consumed, and being taken on wild tours of analysis. It was a lot of fun. Before that, I had a semi obsessive period with the mary sue archetype, reading an ENDLESS amount of meta about it. Some of the first writing I ever did when I was about ~10 was a trope-heavy satire fanfiction of Invader Zim. (Yes, it is with great fear I admit this fact openly).

So while 'contemporary YA' isn't my take (which is what this is, even if it is a heavy fantasy at the same time), I requested this book off Netgalley due to my interest in tropes and literary analysis. I don't really know what I expected- I was just intrigued by the fact such a weird, meta book was on offer that I requested it. I think when I saw I was approved I slightly regretted this choice, since I wasn't positive I'd actually enjoy the book. Luckily, it's a short read full of short chapters, so it moved quick enough.

### Plot

Here's what the book is about: There's a world called Tropetown, where various instances of literary tropes live when they aren't 'on the job'. When an author in 'reader world' starts a book, they often hire tropes to fill in the story as extras and bit characters, compared to the 'developeds', AKA main characters with proper story arcs. Tropes who misbehave are sent to the Termination Train and never seen again.

Riley is a Manic Pixie Dream Boy, a variant of the dream girl. This is a very well known trope, but if you don't know it, it's the idea of a super quirky, weird girl who comes into a boring average guy's life to shake things up as a love interest, usually before then leaving/dying/whatever. It's a heavily critiqued trope, but has been very popular in the past (around the early 2000s mark).

Riley is sent to group therapy for being unhappy with his job. His best friend was terminated for unknown reasons, and he's tired of constantly playing the same bit characters with no development or story of their own in books. Therapy consists of a couple other pixie dream girls, including his love interest Zelda.

### Analysis

So, what can be said about this book? Riley works to think about his life and deal with therapy, all the while falling for Zelda (who he can't date because it's unclear if she likes him, and also in therapy patients aren't meant to date each other. He makes friends with some other pixies and also deals with the news the tropetown council is thinking of retiring the trope for good to the museum. He is currently in a novel and works to behave there.

I don't know, it's sort of a... strange slice of life? Slice of life, but it's life in a weird parody universe that is still written pretty much seriously. This book is light hearted, but rarely tries for humor, so I don't think it's meant to be funny. By the end, it's meant to be pretty serious, with a lot of messages about self-love and acceptance and forging your own path in life. To me, this meshes oddly with the very fictional, self-aware universe they all live in.

Things are. I suppose. Ludicrous? The world and characters are so over the top in their actions and existence, and yet mostly are talking about serious things. This is especially true about 3/4 into the book, where Riley

and some friends visit the museum of past tropes, and... reflect earnestly and seriously about racist caricatures and story telling devices. A mention of problematic tropes like that perhaps have a place in a book ABOUT tropes, but are jarring when everything around it is extremely light-hearted and cheesy. The talk is pretty well handled, it was just a 'wow, am I really reading the term 'magical negro' right now? In this book?' moment.

The characters were difficult to evaluate because they were all... tropes. Still, part of the book is that they are more than tropes, and deserve a chance to be seen as full people, especially as manic pixies. This is probably true, but I still didn't like any of the characters as particularly developed. Riley had the most sense and personality as the first person lead, but the group therapy pixies were very interchangeable, and the more developed of the supporting cast was still quite lacking. Most notable was Nebraska, someone who I thought was a one-off joke at 'Looking for Alaska', but turned out to be a very one-dimensional mean girl bully.

One of the strangest character choices is the on the side, entirely indiscernible love triangle going on at group therapy. For one, the therapist is involved (geez! that's not allowed!) (also I pictured her as 45 until she was suddenly dating two of the people in therapy). For another, it's something we really are just told about in two dramatic revelations, but I sure as hell didn't see any evidence to back that up. Therapist turns out to be the ex of Nebraska, and then is in a relationship with another girl in therapy right now. This is all around super weird. I suppose as tropes they are ageless and come into existence fully grown, but Therapist is a New Age Therapist trope, which implies maybe 30 at the youngest, and Manic Pixie Dream Girl is usually high school to early 20s. Even if it's not a 'real' age gap, it was super weird.

Also, not the most helpful that the relationship was only revealed to the main character as a secret, not something particularly noticeable to the reader. I mean, there's some mention of heteronormative standards and That's A Lot Of Bisexuals, but it stood out as a badly done, meaningless little subplot.

### Conclusion

Tropes are easy to analyze. Books about tropes that may or may not be heavy handed and strange on purpose are near impossible.

This book wasn't that funny, or interesting. It was just sort of strange, or else too cheesy. It was something, alright. I don't know if it was for me. I don't even know if it is middle grade or YA. I don't know what genre this really is.

I got nothing.

It wasn't bad. But I couldn't call it good either.

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### **Hannah says**

4.5/5. Review to come! I really loved this one. :)

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### **Becca says**

*I received an e-ARC of The Manic Pixie Dream Boy Improvement Project from Netgalley in exchange for an*

*honest review! Any quotes used in this review are from the ARC copy & may not be in the final book.*

Be still my pixie heart.

I'm gonna be real with ya. this book is so stinkin' cute. By accident, I picked it up last night & didn't move until the very last page. & it wasn't even because I was at the edge of my seat, but just because it was so cute & very fast-paced. I believe it only took me about 3 hours & 30 minutes to read. Quick reads are always good to add to the TBR, right?

*The Manic Pixie Dream Boy Improvement Project* takes us deep into TropeTown; a place that resembles that of a cartoon — you know, bright sunny skies & perfect puffy clouds. In TropeTown lives Tropes, and to be more specific, lives the Manic Pixie Dream Girl & Boy Tropes.

For those who need a quick reminder on what the Manic Pixie Dream Girl is TV Tropes has your back —

Manic Pixie Dream Girl exists to help the protagonist achieve happiness without ever seeking any independent goals herself.

So, the plot of this book is pretty simple — Riley, a Manic Pixie Dream Boy is sent to group therapy for going off-script. Here, he meets & falls in love with Zelda, a Manic Pixie Dream Girl. It's against the rules (— a lot of things are against the rules in TropeTown) to date someone in therapy. Other things happen, we have a conflict, a climax, a solution & the end.

As soon as I read the synopsis of *The Manic Pixie Dream Boy Improvement Project*, I requested it, because I absolutely love meta. & I'm a true sucker for the Trope. It was a double whammy on my interests. This book was definitely unique, in terms of subject matter. I loved seeing this world, and was very intrigued by the concept of these Tropes getting called into work by their novel's author.

Whoever said laughter is the best medicine not only didn't fully appreciate the miracle of cough drops, but also didn't consider laughter doesn't cure you — it merely transfers the pain to your abs temporarily.

Also, remember #TeamJacob & #TeamEdward? Well, this book has #TeamMarsden & #TeamRafferty & I'm 100% here for Marsden. There's also this play on Starcrossed Lovers/Forbidden Love & Love Triangles. SO MANY DIFFERENT TROPES, I LOVE IT.

One negative thing that I'd have to say is that I didn't care much for the relationships in this book, but for me that didn't matter much, because I was having too much fun with the Manic Pixie Dream Boy. & just seeing the world of TropeTown.

— also, while writing this review, it's worth noting that I definitely just raised it a star, because I'm realizing

how much I actually enjoyed this read. It was definitely adorable & a lot of fun. I definitely recommend taking a trip to TropeTown & reading *The Manic Pixie Dream Boy Improvement Project*.

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### **Laura Hill says**

*I received a complimentary copy of this book from Lerner Publishing Group through NetGalley. Opinions expressed in this review are completely my own. The book will be published on March 5, 2019.*

Writing: 3.5 Plot: 3.0 Characters: 3.5

Cute and whimsical, this early YA book explores the world of stereotypes using fictional characters who long to be more than their boilerplate dictates. Riley is a Manic Pixie Dream Boy who works hard and is true to type, but chafes a bit under perceived Author mismanagement. He is sent to Group Therapy with a set of Manic Pixie Dream Girls — just one step away from termination — in order to learn to “remember his place” and “The Author is always right.” However, when the Trope Town Council decides that perhaps the Manic Pixie Dream trope is more trouble than it’s worth, Riley and his therapy cohort have to come up with something big to show how truly important their trope is.

On the surface this is fun and a little silly and will appeal to the younger part of the YA demographic. However, there is some depth to the discussion of literature, the use of stock characters (stereotypes) and the impact that can have on readers. In the Trope Museum the characters bear witness to old stereotypes that have been “retired” due to being offensively racist, sexist, etc. The Uncle Tomfoolery trope is a prime example. The Manic Pixie Dream Girl trope is on the chopping block for being sexist. But Riley, as an experimental “Boy” version, shows how it may be the association of a particular race, gender, sexual preference with a particular trope that is the issue, not the trope itself. I liked that a lot — there are various personality stereotypes that exist in the world — the damage (I feel) is associating them with whole groups of people based solely on physical characteristics.

\*\*\* Spoiler alert \*\*\* One more small thing I appreciated. Riley finds himself at the center of a love triangle between Zelda (a Manic Pixie Dream Girl) and Ada, a “Developed” girl in the novel he is working on. At the end of the book, all three step off into the sunset on the Termination Train to Reader World without having to resolve the triangle. They are happy to pursue their own lives and see where it takes them without necessarily “winning” the boy. When I was growing up, just about every movie I saw and book I read focussed on the girl falling in love with the right boy. Regardless of her other pursuits, if she didn’t get the boy at the end, she felt like a failure. Since I was never taught this explicitly, it was difficult to question to the premise. Fiction has a powerful ability to teach us norms of expectations and behavior under the covers as it were. I like the not-so-subtle messages in this book.

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### **Brittany Lamb says**

*Note: Thank you to NetGalley and the publisher for sending me a free, advanced copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.*

This is a really cute book that I was ultra excited to read when NetGalley approved me. I think that as readers, we all love to joke around about tropes and the overuse of certain ones (especially the manic pixie dream girl trope), but I never imagined a book centered entirely around them.

This book is kind of like one long play on words. Does that make sense? It's written around a ton of ironic cute fluffiness. It's a book about book characters... knowing that they are book characters (but not for this book, *per se*), who get "requested" from authors to be in a novel. Basically, the tropes are like actors, except instead of watching their work on the big screen, we get to read about it on the pages of our favorite books.

The whole idea was (sorry to use this word again but I'm lacking a better descriptive) cute. All of the little manic pixies were very manic pixie-ish and Riley (AKA the only manic pixie boy who also happens to be the character who stared in *The Fault in Our Stars* [though this is never explicitly said because I'm sure the author isn't trying to get into trouble but it is very heavily insinuated]) falls in love with one of the girls (Zelda). Each trope gets a character description sheet and everyone pretty much fits into their stereotype. A trope comes into existence when needed by readers and authors, so the tropes aren't developed beyond TropeTown.

So, yeah, it was all very cutesy. But also a little... confusing? Developeds (AKA narrators or POV characters) aren't in TropeTown but they are still living. I think? But they just live in the story written for them... I think.

I guess the reason I didn't click with this was because it was so ironic and trope-y. I mean, yeah, the book is about tropes but I swear you can only take so much of manic pixie "cuteness" before you're incredibly over it. It was a really quick read though, so it's not like it drags on. It just didn't hold my attention.

It did touch on some pretty important topics, however. I wish these issues would've been featured more throughout the book instead of focusing so closely on the retirement of the manic pixie dream girl trope. For instance, at one point a couple of the characters got a lesson about racism and sexism that is often used in some tropes and why that shouldn't be acceptable because it's essentially a negatively fueled stereotype. I think that the goal was for the entire book to be about this lesson, but it fell short in that aspect to me because there wasn't enough focus on it.

Overall, it's not something I hated. If you like quick, fluffy, ironic stories, than I'd suggest you check it out! But it wasn't really for me, sadly.

(I would like to now apologize for make you read the word "cute" so many times. I really don't know how else to describe a story like this. It was overwhelmingly so)

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### **Kristen Lippert-Martin says**

It is my opinion that Lenore Appelhans is a bit of a genius. Please see **THE MANIC PIXIE DREAM BOY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT** as proof of that assertion.

If you're a regular reader of YA, you'll no doubt get a kick out of the whole concept of these oft-used characters and tropes, all living in Trope Town, doing the bidding of their authors whether they agree with their tired plot lines or not. After all, "The author is always right."

And you'll read along, smiling and nodding, like "Yep, I've seen *\*that\** character a million times," and "Yeah, THAT twist. Who didn't see that coming?" The next thing you know, you're sucked into the actual story, rooting for Riley and his fellow Manic Pixies, as they try to figure out how to grow past the very tropes that rule their lives.

## HOW DID SHE DO THAT?

It would be easy for a concept like this to descend into gimmickry and yet Appelhans employs the very tricks we've all come to know and love in YA so well, she still gets you hooked, invested, and cheering for a HEA.

Five stars to you, clever YA author lady. Well played.

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## Clara says

This is really hard to rate: there are some ways in which this VASTLY exceeded my expectations, but in other ways, I really wanted it to go further.

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## Lenore Appelhans says

This is a meta-fiction romantic comedy about redefining the labels we're given - on our own terms. It's about looking beyond the stereotype and getting to know the actual person. It's about writing and the writing process and the magic and the frustration and the courage to step up and be the main character in your own story. It's a satire of YA tropes with the utmost affection for the category. It's my favorite thing I've ever written, and I can't wait for you to read it.

Why, yes! I do have a book playlist.

Machine - MisterWives

Ladies Don't Play Guitar - Tennis

I Am Chemistry - Yeasayer

REALiTi - Grimes

Cigarette Daydreams - Cage the Elephant

Read My Mind - The Killers

Poet - Bastille

Engine Driver - The Decemberists

My Mistakes Were Made for You - The Last Shadow Puppets

Lose It - Oh Wonder

I'm Not Your Hero - Tegan and Sara

Out of My League - Fitz & The Tantrums

You Are a Tourist - Death Cab for Cutie

Ready to Start - Arcade Fire

Bang - Tori Amos

How Big, How Blue, How Beautiful - Florence + the Machine

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## Mary Thompson says

Lenore Appelhans has managed to create a book that both works on its own as a fun story about characters you care about and is also a clever sendup of YA tropes. This book will both entertain you and make you think. Just like Riley doesn't have to helplessly accept his fate as a Manic Pixie Dream Boy, you don't have

to accept force-fed stereotypes. Get ready to change the way you think about every YA book you've ever read.

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### **Becca Jacquin says**

This book was way out of my comfort zone, but I couldn't get over the premise of getting to go behind the pages with characters.

I'm not overly familiar with meta-fiction and hope that it isn't the latest and greatest trend, because while this book was good it doesn't bear repeating.

There were hilarious parts, I mean group therapy straight out of *Fight Club* where you get to see some of the most common tropes thrown in a room together because they're misbehaving. Not to mention the cleverly named various areas of town.

Here are the reasons I knocked a couple stars off. The near chapterly reference to how amazing pie is got old quick. I mean, is it a Manic Pixie thing to adore pie? The Issue didn't arrive until maybe halfway through the book and by that point it felt more than a little late. Then the ending was not even really an ending, it was more a nice opening into a second book.

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### **Alyssa says**

**I got an ARC of this from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.**

To start with the good, I love how meta this book was. In this book, the main characters are characters in stories, working with Authors. That made for a treasure trove of gems like this:

*“We did Pilates together, and she cranked up her book playlist. She said she spent weeks coming up with songs that exude the atmosphere of the piece.”* Ava snorts. *“It kind of felt like a waste of time, honestly.”*

As well as:

*I swear I develop whiplash from all the head nodding and bounding about I’m forced to do.*

Honestly guys, this book was personally attacking me.

I raved to friends about golden stuff like this, and I was sure I was going to give this four stars. But then I asked myself to look past all the amazing vignettes and look at the plot, characters. And then I realized . . . I wasn't impressed.

It's not a bad book. It may work for you if you like cutesy stuff. But I just couldn't connect to Riley. The entire time while I was reading, I was just like, “I don’t care about this, Riley.” A disproportionate amount of

the book was about how much he really wanted to be Zelda's boyfriend, and those parts were far weaker in comparison to the meta stuff/commentary about tropes.

Speaking of Zelda. I didn't like her as well. Lots of the supporting characters felt like standard manic pixie dream girls, which is ironic, considering this is a book about manic pixies breaking out of the manic pixie mold. Even Zelda didn't feel like she broke out of the mold too much. In the end, she too served as a standard manic pixie dream girl in a work that attempts to subvert the trope. The only character I cared about at all was Ava.

Anyone looking for a meta read might like this. Just be aware this is more a romantic comedy than anything else, and hopefully you won't be as apathetic as I was.

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### **Pamela Stennett says**

<https://iwriteinbooks.wordpress.com/2...>

So, I have a confession.

When I was younger, I loved the Manic Pixie Dream Girl (or Boy when they were present) trope. I resonated with the spunky, energetic, quirkiness so much. I've always been a little bit MPDG, probably.

But as I got older, I started looking at the trope a little bit differently. While I was a free spirit and hyperactive, I still had my own goals and dreams. I won't turn this into a dissertation on gender role expectations but needless to say, I fell out of love with the role type, at least in the more obvious incarnations (I'm looking at you, Garden State and Elizabethtown.)

Flashforward to the present and I find myself longing for the days when I had fewer grounded responsibilities. I think that's why The Manic Pixie Dream Boy Improvement Project resonated with me so deeply. Most of the appeal of the trope is that we all gravitate toward the spark we've either lot along the way, or never had to begin with. The shining, sparkly, fun, abandon calls to even the grumpiest among us.

Without giving too much of the story away, the book follows Riley, a Trope Town Manic Pixie Dream Boy, through what is sure to be a world-ending, disaster of an identity crisis, as his entire existence is called into question by the authority he and the rest of the town's stock characters answer to. Through self-questioning, group therapy, and yes, manic pixie hijinx, a much deeper, softer, undercurrent of discovery runs through the story.

The book turned out to be far deeper and more complex than I anticipated but then again, that's the thing with Manic Pixie Dream folks; they just look sparkly when we're down in the dumps and they come to rescue us. Off the page, they tend to be full, whole people with their own identities. And so are we.

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### **Juliana says**

I was given a digital ARC from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

This book is not what I expected at all. It was unique and very meta to the point that I liked it but didn't love

it. The concept was very fresh and made me want to keep reading. What stuck with me the most were the scenes where Riley was in a book within the book and talking about the Author writing his scene. I liked these scenes the most because I could easily relate. When I write, I imagine my characters and how I can get them to move, talk, and do the things I want them to do. Lenore really understood the complexities of writing for your main characters as well as the minor ones. I do think that some of the concepts went a bit above her head and got away from her at times (thus the 3 stars) because I found it a little hard to keep up at times. The meta of the whole thing was strange to me sometimes because the fictional characters were aware that they weren't real and that the reader (aka me or you) was reading the story. It's clever but I think that more could have been done with the whole story. The author definitely did her research on tropes, especially for the main character of the story, and I felt I was getting a literary history lesson at one point. As a whole, the story was decent enough and I think that writers will get a kick out of it.

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