



Semi-Scripted

Amanda Heger

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Marisol Gutierrez has come to Los Angeles with a single goal: win the prestigious grant that will save her family's struggling medical clinic back in Nicaragua. But, when a cute guy invites her to sit in the audience of a hip-but-failing comedy program, Marisol figures she'll get a little entertainment out of her otherwise stressful trip.

Evan Abramson thought an internship at the *So Late It's Early Show* would be the start of a long television-writing career, but their ratings are sinking. With every show, his plans seem one step closer to collapse. When a backstage crisis throws him into an onstage encounter with a gorgeous and charming audience member, Evan and Marisol become overnight sensations. And soon their made-for-television romance is the only thing keeping *So Late* from getting the axe.

As things heat up onscreen and off, Marisol and Evan are caught between their careers and their growing feelings for one another. Being together in front of the cameras puts Marisol's grant at risk, but keeping their romance offscreen means Evan's show is sure to fail. Together they have to decide whether to stick with the script and save their careers or improvise their way toward a happily ever after.

Semi-Scripted Details

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Author : Amanda Heger

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From Reader Review Semi-Scripted for online ebook

Cyndi Becker says

Semi-Scripted is the second in Amanda Hegers Wanderlove series and the first book by her that I've read. The story takes place over just under two weeks, with a few story lines that make up the setting. Because of this, it's a fast paced romance and a whirlwind of a read. The story is centered around Evan and Marisol, but there is a host of secondary characters that create chaos and seem to thwart both Evan and Marisol's career goals. It's Evan and Marisol that make this a whirlwind fun and sweet.

Evan is an earnest young man just trying to keep his internship at a variety/talk TV show going. Marisol is contending with being pulled into the drama of the TV show and with her original intent of winning a grant for the clinic she manages. Evans interest in Marisol becomes something more personal and who could blame him, she's adorable and sassy. He has great intentions with her but in the crazy of entertainment it doesn't take long for things to spiral out of control.

Overall this is a fun and quick read. Evans grand gesture is heartwarming (even if it's the least he should do) and Marisol's kind nature make them two characters worth championing.

I was gifted a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review

Marty Mayberry says

We met Marisol in WITHOUT BORDERS and it was wonderful connecting with her again! SEMI-SCRIPTED is a hilarious, heartwarming RomCom by one of my favorite authors, Amanda Heger.

Marisol has come to LA from Nicaragua to secure funding for her family's struggling medical brigade. While in LA, she hopes to get into the audience of one of her favorite game shows. When she isn't able to get into the show, she's bummed. Until a cute guy named Evan offers her a ticket into the show he interns with, a failing late night comedy. Next thing Marisol knows, she's interacting in a flirtatious semi-scripted act on live TV that raises the show's ratings, but also plunges Marisol into the limelight. Her and Evan's friendship blooms, and swoony kisses commence. They begin to fall for each other.

Told from dual pov in third person, this is a laugh-out-loud vacation read. I finished it in just shy of three days, unable to put it down except when life intervened and I was forced to.

I can't wait to see what this author writes next.

Thank you, NetGalley and Diversion Books, for providing an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Melinda says

Semi-Scripted by Amanda Heger
2.5*

This story follows Evan, an intern on a failing tv show and Marisol who has come to the United States hoping to win a grant that will save her family's medical clinic in Nicaragua. When Marisol is turned away from her favorite game show, she's convinced by Evan to help fill one of the many empty seats on Its So Late, It's Early and the two become an overnight sensation.

This book was an ok read for me. I didn't really feel much of a connection between the characters and the story was a bit bland for my tastes. There were some humorous moments interspersed throughout but they were few and far between for me to clarify this as a RomCom. The writing seemed a little disjointed to me and I would have really liked to *feel* that the characters were falling for each other.

*arc received from NetGalley in exchange for honest review.

**Reviewed by Melinda for Jo&IsaLoveBooks Blog.

Marie says

Smart, funny, and sexy!!

Amanda Heger's characters are so real! Marisol's spunk and wit is infectious, and Evan has to be the sweetest, sexiest man in all of Los Angeles. The antics of the So Late talk show are hysterical and I couldn't wait to find out what Marisol and Evan were going to do next! I thoroughly enjoyed watching the love story between Marisol and Evan develop. Well done Ms. Heger, can't wait for your next book!

Samantha Bilodeau says

This story is so darn cute. This is the second book in the Wanderlove series and is Marisol's book. In this one, Marisol has traveled to L.A. to go to a public health conference, hoping to be chosen for a grant to keep her mother's foundation in Nicaragua afloat. But first, she tries to get into a game show, which leads her down a crazy path. I absolutely adored Marisol that much more than I did in Without Borders, which is definitely saying a lot. She is sweet, feisty, and has an awesome sense of humor and adventure. Her plunge into American infamy and talk shows was so entertaining to "watch" as it was unveiled.

And then there is Evan, the lowly talk-show intern from Peoria, IL that she finds herself thrown together with. He is an adorable dork that you can't help but melt for. This not-exactly-a-country-boy chasing his dream in L.A., with all of his awkwardness, was a fun match to Marisol. I adored his grandpa, as well, and laughed at most of their interactions, about as much as I was touched by them.

Speaking of laughing, this book was FUNNY. There were so many chuckle-worthy moments and the layer of silliness was seriously charming. The amusing costumed audience members that crop up really add to it as well.

I appreciated the dashes of realism in this, too, with not everything being "perfect" in the end, but it all working out anyway. What happens with the various awards, and the future of the show, and even the romance between Marisol and Evan itself. It was perfect to help convey the overall message of the story.

This was a truly fantastic rom-com! It was fast-paced, and I just couldn't put it down, eager to see how it all played out.

I received an ARC from the author in exchange for an honest review. my opinion is 100% my own

Heather Fleet says

SO much love for this book. Full review to come...

Melanie Cesa says

I really enjoyed this story! We meet Marisol in Without Borders. She's fun loving and full of life and you couldn't help but smile with each scene she's in.

This is another great story by Amanda Heger that was filled with wit and emotions. Marisol and Evan's slow build relationship had me anxious and filled with anticipation.

Marisol takes a trip to CA in hopes to get a grant to save her family's medical clinic in Nicaragua. What she doesn't expect is Evan. Evan who has brought adventure into her life. Evan who has reignited a spark inside of her. Evan who makes her feel alive. But, has Evan made a mistake that could cost him this wonderful friendship he has found himself in?

Suddenly stars of a late-night show, caught in social media frenzy, working to win the grant, being sabotaged by other contestants; this story was a whirlwind of frustrations and feelings that kept me waiting to see how it was all going to play out. The writing is great and makes you feel all of the emotions of each scene.

Filled with a flurry of laughter and emotions, I couldn't put down this fun, heartfelt story, as Marisol & Evan captured my heart.

Tanya says

Loved this one- soooo funny. Full review to come for Heroes and Heartbreakers.

Meredith Tate says

I received a free ARC of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review

After reading and loving Heger's debut novel, WITHOUT BORDERS, I knew I needed to get my hands on Marisol's story ASAP.

In SEMI-SCRIPTED, Marisol leaves Nicaragua to attend a conference in LA in a desperate attempt to win a grant that would save her family's struggling medical practice. Before the hectic and competitive conference begins, Marisol decides to have a little fun and go to her favorite popular game show. But after being turned away, she begrudgingly accepts a free ticket to a lesser known comedy show from a cute guy named Evan instead.

Evan is an intern for the dying comedy show, So Late It's Early. While he wants to get into film making, he's stuck doing grunt work for this show that's failed so badly, it's being renewed on a week-to-week basis. So when he's assigned the task of trying to fill audience seats by recruiting disappointed fans rejected from the neighboring game show, he doesn't think twice before offering Marisol a ticket.

But when Marisol and Evan accidentally become So Late's newest dynamic duo with potential to save the show, Evan's supervisor instructs him to recruit Marisol by any means necessary. He makes a deal with her: if Marisol agrees to come back on the show, he'll help her win the grant. Desperate to save her family's business, and struggling to impress the grant judges, Marisol reluctantly agrees. But soon, their friendship grows into something more - and their growing fame comes with more consequences than they expected.

This was such a fun read that I completed in one day. Comedy is such a hit or miss with me in books, and Heger hits it out of the park. Between Marisol and Evan's awkward pickup lines, the conniving charity workers competing for the grant, and a wealth of dick jokes, I found myself laughing out loud in almost every chapter.

Evan is a total sweetheart and I loved watching his interactions with Marisol. I loved how both Marisol and Evan have their own storylines separate from the romance itself, and both are working toward individual goals throughout the book. Plus, this book subtly hits on topics of racism, double standards between men and women in media, and white-saviorism, in a way that's not heavy-handed.

I loved this story! I also loved the addition of Clint, and I hope we see more of him in the next book!

I'll leave you with this:

"What's the difference between a trust fund and an erection?" she asked.

James rested a hand on his chin, like a less muscular, more world-worn version of The Thinker. "Well, I honestly don't know."

"I don't have a trust fund."

Autumn says

Marisol Gutierrez isn't in L.A. to rub elbows with the stars. She's there to save Ahora. The grant that she's competing for will ensure that they can continue saving lives.

But before the official business of acquiring the grant begins, she takes a few hours to try for a shot to visit the set of her favourite game show – Who's Got the Coconut. Sadly, she doesn't make the cut and instead ends up in the audience of a little known talk show all because of the very insistent and very cute boy handing out wristbands.

To her surprise, not only does she end up on the show – she ends up being the show – and finds herself starring as one half of Hollywood's newest "It" couple.

"What if people see me on the show? And they think I am not very serious nurse?"

"You aren't a very serious nurse."

Marisol pressed her lips together. Just because she was young didn't mean she wasn't serious about her job. "I am."

"You're a nurse. And probably a very good one. But you aren't a very serious nurse. Very serious nurses have asses the size of China. They're always scowling, and they enjoy jabbing needles into people."

Evan Abramson has bet every penny he has on an internship in Los Angeles. He knows it's a long way from his Illinois roots, but it's a risk that he's willing to take.

All the glitters in L.A. isn't gold and his internship on the So Late It's Early show turns out to be as glamorous as eating left over pizza. But when a desperate stunt for ratings has him falling desperately in love, he's willing to go to any length to make Marisol the permanent star of his reality show forever.

Evan's gaze flicked from her face to something beyond her shoulder and back again. "I think we..."
Maybe it was the rush of standing on the stage of her childhood dreams. Maybe it was nothing but proximity and the loneliness of travel. But Marisol wanted to his him mid-sentence. She wanted to break off all his words and most of her common sense. She wanted to kiss this guy who probably tasted like mint and the California sun.

Semi-Scripted is a hilariously sweet story about how strange and wonderful love can be! Amanda's characters served up some of the most wicked banter that I've encountered this year and I found myself wishing I could meet them in real life.

It's a comical and yet profound look at falling in love under the most unusual of circumstances and still holding tight to your own truth – and it shines just as bright as any of the spotlights in Tinsel Town...

Annika Sharma says

I received an ARC for my honest review

Team Marivan forever.

Marisol, a nurse in LA to fight for a chance for a grant is swept into the game show world--hoping to be a participant on her dream game show, she ends up on another, thus crossing paths with Evan, the intern. Both

characters are absolutely adorable in loveable and different ways. Evan is a smart, good boy, "oh shucks" kind of sweet lead, while Marisol is a little sassier, bubblier and with every mention of her smile and carefree laugh, someone I fell in love with too. Their love story is funny, cute, at times random because of the nature of the game show, and I loved shipping their team the entire time.

Amanda Heger's writing is descriptive, lyrical and downright funny if you've got a sense of humor and can appreciate some sarcasm. Half the funnies come through her imagery, the other half through one liners that zing you when you least expect it. Cannot wait for the next Wanderlove novel as Amanda Heger is one of my favorite writers who really tries to get details right.

Julie says

This is the second book that I've read by Amanda Heger but the first in this series. I hardly ever pick up a book in the middle of a series when I've not read the previous ones but there are always exceptions. Those exceptions usually revolve around how much I really enjoy an author's writing. And that's what the thing was this time. I really enjoyed a novella that I beta-read this summer from Heger. Which is really good, btw ... but that's another blog post.

First, the cover is beautiful. Should this matter? Nope. But it totally does. I'm a cover-judger. When I first started in on Semi-Scripted, I felt a little lost. I'm not completely sure why that was ... it quickly cleared up but I was totally disconnected from the story for the first few chapters. More than likely, that is all on me. Sometimes, I'm just not in it, you know? It's not fair to the book at all and after I got out of my little funk, the story chugged along and I found myself enjoying it more than I had initially thought that I would.

I didn't really know what to think of Marisol at first. She was such a determined lady but acted like an excited little girl at the prospect of going on this one television show and it was sweet to see that side of her because she does seem a little closed off at first. The reason she seemed closed off was very apparent ... this chick had a lot of stuff resting on her shoulders and she (along with the reader) didn't know if she would be able to pull off what she needed to in order to get the grant her family so desperately required. The further you get into the book, the more I began to adore Marisol. Each interaction with Evan just endeared her more to me.

And poor, poor Evan. This guy has just about one of the worst jobs in the tv industry and you can completely feel his pain. Watching his desperation morph into something else when he was with Marisol was what I absolutely love about this book. The chemistry between these two made me laugh and sigh and want more. Every time another character came into a scene, I just wanted them to go away so that it could be only Evan and Marisol.

This was a pretty good book! I'm curious about the first book in the series and any others that might come after. This one was a sweet romance novel that was an easy read. I'm glad that I was asked to read it and I'm looking forward to see what else Heger has in the works.

** I received this novel in exchange for an honest review **

Check out more of my reviews at Little Miss Bookmark!

Cara Nicole says

Witty and heartfelt, Semi-Scripted stays with you long after you finish.

Marisol and Evan have captured my heart, along with the rest of the world after they inadvertently find themselves on a fledgling late-night talk show. Marisol has traveled to LA to try and save her families medical clinic at a nursing conference, and while trying to get on a ridiculous game show, runs into Evan, an intern for a late-night show that has to convince the game-show rejects to sit in the audience. I loved that this was not insta-love, it was a slow simmer, with a fantastic build-up. These two find themselves in a social media storm, but when it turns on them, will they be able to weather it together, or will it tear them apart? This book was uproariously hilarious, I woke up my kids more than once with loud laughter. I was not able to put it down, I was grinning so much my cheeks hurt, and you can't help but fall in love with these characters. It's unlike any book I've ever read, Amanda Heger has that something special that doesn't come along every day thing going on. While it says that it's the second in a series, this was my first book by Ms. Heger, and I had no problem following along, and it definitely won't be my last by her.

A huge thank you to the author and publisher for a copy via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Chris C - A Midlife Wife says

The first part of the book leaves you a little disconnected as far as what the story is about or what is going on. But then as you get into the second chapter and more, you begin to put together the whole story.

From the witty addiction of people to game shows and what they'll do to get on one, to the crazy things people will do to sabotage another for the sake of winning, you get to see people at their worst in the story.

The author brings together two people who seemingly have nothing in common but yet have the ability to find humor and play off each other for a fun rom-com story that becomes a bit addicting.

With two different story's going at the same time and a little romance thrown on the side, it's tough to try to figure out how the two will come together. But the author does a good job with this crazy story and leaves you with a delightful thoughts of a possible HEA. I was hoping for a complete closure in the story but she left it open for us to figure it out what was to come... or maybe another story?

For something delightful and a bit different in style than a typical romance or chicklit read, check out Semi-Scripted by Amanda Heger.

Viviane Crystal says

Marisol Gutierrez is a nurse come to Los Angeles, in her mother's place, to win a grant for their failing medical practice. Marisol's nervous about the interview to come but decides she will fill the waiting time by going to her favorite game show. When approaching the site, Marisol sees a bunch of strange characters such as a man wearing nothing but a dirty diaper, characters covered in multi-colored glitter and makeup. No

entry for this show and not surprising given the oddities trying to gain entry.

Marisol wanders away and is immediately accosted by a guy named Evan who is inviting her into what the reader learns is a failing game show. All those strange people dressed and made up weirdly are also waiting. Evan is an intern on the show and he knows they are a breath away from being canceled. So his job is to recruit guests who will be invited to come onstage and become part of the show. However, the guest has no idea what will happen but has to agree anyway. The upshot after a comic wait is that Marisol's playing of the part in the game is a winner and boosts the ratings above the normally dismal number. So now the game show owner says they are away from the danger zone but on a probationary status, one week at a time. Marisol, meanwhile, has bigger things on her mind. Her interview for the grant is horrendous and now it turns out she has to give a presentation to the Board, proving her quest for the grant is more worthy than that of the other applicants. Marisol's in a panic and so is Evan. For Marisol is not ready for the presentation and Evan has been told to get Marisol back or the show's a goner.

The remainder of the novel takes up these two quandaries, with Evan and Marisol being more and more drawn to each other with many funny moments included. Amanda Heger has written a comic, contemporary novel that leads the reader through a light, crazy and dramatic journey in Los Angeles, California where anything can happen – and does!
