



The Very Principled Maggie Mayfield

Kathy Cooperman

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From Kathy Cooperman, the bestselling author of *Crimes Against a Book Club*, comes a comedy about a woman with good intentions who makes some very bad decisions.

Maggie Mayfield, an elementary school principal in the upscale suburbs of San Diego, likes to do the right thing—for her students and, after her marriage takes a hit, for herself as well. What's wrong with that?

To keep her cash-strapped school afloat, Maggie says yes to a sweet deal from Silicon Valley's hottest for-profit education company. They'll provide enough funding so that Maggie can keep her science, art, and PE teachers in exchange for some dopey beta-test program backed by handsome CEO Danny Z. No layoffs! Happy kids!

Professionally, everything's flourishing. Personally, the right things are tingling—Maggie can't resist Danny Z's magnetism. But as the school year continues, Maggie senses that she might have been duped. As things take a turn for the worse, Maggie and her BFF assistant, Diane, must keep things good—by going a little bad.

Smart, funny, and unpredictable, *The Very Principled Maggie Mayfield* is a comedy of friendship, class warfare, good intentions, and occasionally necessary unprincipled behavior.

The Very Principled Maggie Mayfield Details

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From Reader Review *The Very Principled Maggie Mayfield* for online ebook

Mackenzie - PhDiva Books says

A quirky and adorable romp, I am charmed and delighted by *The Very Principled Maggie Mayfield*. Grab yourself a box of your favorite chocolates and take the day off to read this one—you will be charmed by Maggie and the gang!! With a refreshing mix of social conscience some cuckoo twists, this one had me laughing along the whole way. I think readers will adore Maggie as much as I did!

For my full review check out my blog PhDiva.blog!

About the Book

Maggie Mayfield is the principal of a San Diego elementary school. The community has recently fallen on some hard times, and many families are relying on Maggie's school more than ever to help their kids learn and grow. When budget cuts loom, Maggie fears that she'll have to lose some important teachers and classes in science, art, and P.E.

So when for-profit education firm Edutek offers Maggie enough funding to cover her STEAM budget needs for the next five years, in exchange for beta testing their new math curriculum software, Maggie feels the offer is too good to pass up. And it doesn't hurt that the CEO Danny Z is hot hot hot, and could charm the smile off the school's worm mascot!

But sometimes things seem too good to be true because they are, and Maggie soon finds out something about the MathPal software that makes her question whether she should have allowed her school to participate at all. Now Maggie and her fearless friend and colleague Diane will have to get a little bad to do some good. And it may involve breaking all of the rules!

Reflection

Maggie Mayfield is a hoot! She's a mix of stern, loving, kooky, relatable, and fierce. She's a woman who can fix a vomit stain on an evening gown, recover from a sex scandal, and wrangle a few curious kids away from a playground snake without batting an eye. Maggie is the sort of person that you can't help but love. At times I wanted to give her a loving smack on the head after some poor choices (but luckily we had Diane there to do that for us)!

Some chapters are narrated by Lucy Wong, a third grader at Maggie's school who suffers from challenges making friends and living up to her mother's academic expectations. Lucy is the smartest girl in her grade, but sometimes that means she has trouble relating to others. I found Lucy's chapters charming, seeing how a third grader reacts to the social dynamics around her was adorable and made me think about how kids pick up on so much more than we give them credit for. Lucy's story stole my heart!

The actual plot surrounding the educational software and the way for-profit education companies prey on not only the districts who want to help children, but the kids themselves—well it was a bit too real. I worked in education research before this and you would be shocked by the number of companies that make money off of educational “research” on kids at school. Those schools are like a glorified rat lab with experiments deemed to have benefit to the kids skewing data to make theirs look like the technology or intervention that

made the difference.

Cooperman did a fantastic job with the plot here. I completely understood Maggie's difficult position, and I empathized with her decisions. Maggie didn't make a single decision in the book lightly. Those kids and their futures meant everything to Maggie!

And then we have the truth coming out. I can't spoil it by suffice it to say the end of this book was wild, wacky, and positively delightful! It swung all the way out there for the grand finale, and it made me whoop with delight when I read it! There is no way going in I expected THAT ending, so let's just say every moment until the very last page made this book completely worth it!

Thank you so much to the team at Amazon Publishing and Lake Union for my copy to review.

Kathy says

I would like to thank NetGalley and the publisher for this Kindle ARC copy of "The Very Principled Maggie Mayfield." What a great surprise this book was! When I began reading the story, I wasn't sure I would be able to get into it enough to finish it, but suddenly, the characters and story took off and I was hooked. Maggie Mayfield is the principal of a small elementary school that is desperate for funding to keep much needed programs and subjects for the students. Maggie has nothing but concern and love for her students, as does her "side-kick" at the school and friend, Diane. When the head of the district, Arlene, informs Maggie that they will be starting a new math trial program with a tech company, Maggie is excited at first. The school is guaranteed funding for a year to start and for many more if the new MathTek works. The handsome and brazen Danny is the head of MathTek and he is a smooth smoothie, but Maggie falls for him and buys his sales pitch. Hilarity ensues and Kathy Cooperman handles the subject matter of schools, funding, teaching and a bad romance deftly. The story is a serious subject matter but handled with a lot of light-hearted humor. I look forward to reading Ms. Cooperman's next book. A great read for any teacher, educator or anyone who wonders what its like to work in the education system.

Fluff Smut & Murder says

I loved past Kathy Cooperman books and her latest is just adorable as well. Now that my only is off at college, reading this took me back to the elementary school right down the street and the fundraising, alpha moms, blatant requests for money, tiger moms, and constant requests for donations.

I really don't miss those days.

But this bookits so fricken funny. I love Diane. I love Maggie. I love Lars, Since I really can't get a sequel, is it too much to ask for a prequel of Diane's life? I laughed and snickered out loud while reading multiple times as I grew to completely understand Maggie - except for her total and complete naivete about the world of business.

Predictable in some parts... random characters in other (the gym teacher and his Judge wife? Rachael and Lucy's friendship?) but a fun fluffy school time read.

Julie says

This book was so much fun! And at the same time, it was smart, funny, and insightful. While I was rooting for Maggie—even when she was making the wrong decisions and I just wanted her to get back on track—I also loved so many of the other characters. Some of my favorite moments were inside the mind of the 3rd grade overachiever, Lucy, and her mom, who was actually hilarious in the way she judged everyone and expected only perfection. What made the book so great was that it dealt with real-world problems like public schools strapped for funding and the compromises teachers have to make to try and do their best for the kids, but at the same time it was filled with hilarious moments we can all relate to (like helicopter parents), and those we can't but that were so much fun to read about (like luxury doomsday bunkers and porn-addicted ex-husbands). My only warning is to be aware that if you listen to the audiobook while exercising, you could have times when it's hard to breathe because you're laughing or snorting at the witty dialogue and funny moments. It happened to me a few times while running up hill!

Tvishi Mongia says

The Very Principled Maggie Mayfield is a quirky, hilarious story for a very principled principle who goes out of her way to provide the best for her students, even if its criminal. I loved the story, it talks about social issues while being light and breezy.

It's a little slow, a steady flow is maintained through out the book and it does try to build up to Maggie's criminal beginning but there is too much happening for it to actual be very edge of the seat reveal but it still is an engaging read.

I loved the quirky assortment of characters, the different point of views and the chemistry between the main characters.

But what steals the show is the climax. It took me by surprise and left me with a smile on my face even after the book was done.

I recommend this book a hundred percent.

Thank you to Netgalley and Lake Union Publishing for the review copy.

Elizabeth says

Intelligent chick-lit: something I haven't seen in a while!

I haven't typically picked chick-lit books lately because they seem pretty shallow and easy to predict. This novel has thicker, deeper characters and a more intelligent voice than any of this genre that I've read in a long while. It was a funny read without being that exhausting sort that tries to make an obscure reference every ten words. This is just how the character thinks and it happens to be funny.

If you're a teacher, former teacher, or in education, this is a funny read for you. The author clearly consulted with many in the education world and hit the tone of the teacher/admin's rosy perspective almost perfectly. I am an ELL teacher, so I'm all around the school all day. Many of the details were spot on.... but she idealized it a little bit. Not enough complaining and venting from the teaching staff and admins ;-)

(view spoiler)

Kathy Miller says

I actually LOVED this book, although it was not what I was expecting. - Thought it might have a thread from the first book.

Maggie Mayfield is school Principal and her main objective is teaching the students at her school, making sure they get the best education possible, without any teachers losing their jobs. I can relate as my sister is an Art Teacher and they are always the first to be laid off, which is a constant worry.

BUT, along comes MathPal, with a sure fire way to teach the students and raise funds for the strapped school system. But with the MathPal also included is their star DannyZ, who plans on getting rich off of this latest technology. Maggie objected to the intrusion and disruption of this gizmo, but DannyZ was looking better each day!

This takes us to DannyZ's mega-rich boss and his Wyoming over the top bunker made for the Apocalypse. Upon their personal jetted tour with Maggie and her friend Diane, it seems Diane has found a striking attraction to Hank, who works at the Wyoming safe house.

Of course, there is always the problem of her ex-husband lurking in the background, which complicates the situation, but adds a lively character to the theme.

The drama, the laughs - who could forget that Thanksgiving dinner! It was pure delight for me to read and sink into the daily drama of Maggie Mayfield.

I recommend this thoroughly for all readers - who would enjoy the ups and downs of a school principal

J McAvoy says

I liked most of this book very much. As a former teacher, I can honestly say that the author was spot on with a lot of descriptions, bringing back some fond (and not so fond) memories. Maggie's description of child's mind being like a mansion is so accurate. The best moments were the teacher/student interactions. The scenes with Miss Pearl/Rachel and Mr. Baran/Connor perfectly encapsulated what teaching should be all about: reaching a child in a manner that they can relate to and grow with. On the flip side, in my experiences, district administration definitely looks a lot like Arlene; it's all about climbing the educational ladder without paying dues, and then making decisions without any consideration for the classroom. The struggle with having to develop engaging curriculum only to have it pushed aside for standardized testing also is real. My

only criticism was that the end seemed to veer off from reality a little bit too much. While some of it certainly seemed plausible, there were a few details that were too over the top for me. All in all, however, I enjoyed the book and would recommend it to anyone looking for a good story, but especially to teachers. Thank you to NetGalley, Lake Union Publishing, and the author for a digital ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Kathleen Gray says

A treat. I want a friend like Diane. A woman who keeps a menagerie of her dead husband's odd pets, works at a school, and runs a prepper blog. I actually liked her more than Maggie, the main character of this interesting novel about a school, an entrepreneur, and ethics. Maggie's an interesting woman- and so is her ex-husband btw. She's determined to do the best by the kids at her school even if it means using a tech tool in order to get the needed funds for, among other things, an art teacher. Danny, the entrepreneur, well, he's not as principled as Maggie. There's a few nice vignettes with students- Lucy and Rachel in particular - and you will likely recognize some of the others from your own life. This one was surprising in spots and none more so than the end. I hated the end. Thanks to net galley for the ARC. This is a good read and you, unlike me, might think the end is perfect and then give it five stars.

Courtney says

This ARC was available to me through NetGalley in exchange for a review.

This was the first novel that I have read by Kathy Cooperman. I really liked the author's writing style and character and plot development.

If I had to choose something that I didn't like about the book, it was the ending. It felt a little rushed to me. I would have preferred a sequel.

Once again, NetGalley has helped me to find a new author who will likely become one of my "must-read" authors. I strongly recommend that you pick up this title on October 23, 2018!

Thank you to the publisher and, of course, the author for this well-written and entertaining novel!

Tiffany says

The Very Principled Maggie Mayfield was a lot of fun! It's a quick read that left me laughing quite a bit.

Maggie Mayfield is the principal at Carmel Knolls Elementary and she spends most of her time conspiring with her best friend/co-worker Diane about ways to earn money in order to keep their school fully funded without having to let any teachers or programs go. When given the opportunity to beta-test new software designed by a Silicon Valley techie, Daniel Zalinsky, in exchange for a stock option in their company they reluctantly go along with the plan. The new software, MathPal, isn't exactly what the women had in mind and they find themselves struggling with the decision of taking the money and letting their school children suffer intellectually or taking the high road and figuring out another way to run their school.

Every character was extremely well fleshed out - no cardboard cutouts or placeholders to be found! From people that were mentioned once to those that had their own subplots, all were rich with characterization. As a result, I found myself rooting for Maggie and getting emotionally invested in the story.

Overall, I enjoyed this book, despite the fact that I felt the ending was a bit rushed and very improbable; though most of the book felt improbable, I had a harder time suspending my disbelief for the ending.

I received this ARC as a courtesy from NetGalley & the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Donna Hines says

Taking on a sweet deal may be her downfall for everybody involved in this adorably sweet and funny read by Kathy Cooperman.

Maggie is our main character who is the San Diego Elementary Principal with a brilliant idea to help her school during these strapped economic times. It involves a little planning and funding and a new Math Pal program. No Lay offs. Happy Kids. Happy Maggie!

What appears to be a win-win situation turns into a feeling of being taken by a con artist named Danny the CEO of the new school program being tested.

It turns out the numbers showing success rates may be inaccurate after all.

PTA mom's don't want any part of this situation but are not shy about commenting on this new budding relationship between Maggie and Danny.

Perhaps Maggie and her assistant Diane can keep everything on the up and up (if ya know what I mean)... Loved it!

Thank you to Kathy, her publisher, NetGalley, and Aldiko for this quirky new ARC in exchange for this honest review.

RoloPoloBookBlog says

The Very Principled Maggie Mayfield by Kathy Cooperman

Source: NetGalley

My Rating: 4/5 stars

Maggie Mayfield has only ever wanted the very best for her kids. Over the long years of her tenure as principal of an elementary school, Maggie has helped hundreds and hundreds of children, seen the school's fortunes rise and fall (mostly fall), and worked herself to exhaustion in an effort to keep the ship afloat. With every new school year come the cuts, the lessening of her student's opportunities, and more guilt over not being able to provide adequately for her kids.

This year, however

With a bit of luck and a great deal of campaigning, Maggie's kids are going to have every opportunity, every beloved teacher, and all they must do in exchange is beta test a new Math program. In exchange for just ten minutes a day, the school gets a huge influx of cash and enough stock to keep the school more than afloat for many, many years to come. However, the payoff over the years is only going to come through if the Math program is a success and, from day one, Maggie has her doubts.

Maggie's doubts only increase as she tests the program herself and begins to get some feedback from the kids. The program is a huge bust, but Maggie is being pressured from above and below to make the program seem a success. Her idiot boss is insistent on the use of the program and the program developer, the utterly irresistible Danny Z is willing to do anything to make the program a success. While Maggie has her doubts, they are pushed aside as she and Danny Z become more than just colleagues.

For much of the school year, Maggie shoves her Math program concerns to the back of her mind as she deals with the day to day issues found in every elementary school and her smoking hot personal life. Her kids are amazing (seriously, the Wong and Klemper girls!) and Danny Z is the kindest, sweetest man Maggie has ever met and she is able to ignore her misgivings right up to the moment her conscious will no longer allow the ignorance.

The Bottom Line: I liked this book through the first two-thirds and then, in the last third, I REALLY liked it. For the most part, there isn't anything new or exciting in the first part of this book, but the resolution is all kinds of crazy fun. Maggie and her BFF are bold, a little crazy, and hell bent on doing what is right even if it means a most uncertain future for the two of them. With a scheme, one faked-voice phone call, and a ridiculous exit plan the two women follow their conscious through to the very end. With more than a few tears shed, some outrageous laughs, and their ducks all lined up in a row Maggie and her BFF end up in a place neither ever thought possible. I think most will find this book, as I did, to be a light, easy read. It has some fun moments, some sad moments, some good and bad characters, and makes for a fine weekend read.

Den says

Read this if you like books about: chick-lit, inadequate education funding, quirky characters, Tech giants, beta testing, Silicone Valley execs, preppers

Pearl says

This was adorable and touched my teacher-heart! I love how accurately the author depicted educators and the current battles of the educational system. Maggie and her staff were truly lovable characters.

I received this ARC as a courtesy from NetGalley & the publisher in exchange for an honest review.
