



# Much Younger Man

*Dianne Highbridge*

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## **Much Younger Man** Dianne Highbridge

Aly is a thirty-five year old high school English teacher, divorced, not thrilled with her job, a little lonely. One day she takes the train instead of driving home and is recognized by Tom, the son of her best friend. After this first accidental encounter, they meet again, and again. Aly finds herself taking the train, looking forward to this interlude. Tom is tall, blond, handsome, an athlete, intelligent, sensitive - even a gifted musician. The moments they spend together become the most meaningful part of their lives. Then he wants more. How can she resist? They are perfectly suited in every way but one. Tom is a much younger man.

## **Much Younger Man Details**

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# From Reader Review Much Younger Man for online ebook

## Elisa Vangelisti says

Riflettete con me: che cos'hanno in comune Romeo e Giulietta, Rose e Jack Dawson, la Bella e la Bestia, King Kong e Jessica Lange, Edward Cullen e Bella Swan, Cenerentola e il Principe Azzurro, Tarzan e Jane? L'amore nonostante la DIVERSITA'. La libertà di amarsi nonostante tutto.

Sto leggendo un libro che parla di amore fra diversi, dove la differenza è quella di un numero, il numero 20. Ma non è lui ad avere vent'anni in più, è lei. E, chissà perché, questo cambia tutto. Questo libro è delicato e bellissimo. Raccontato in terza persona, ma al presente; a volte in prima, ma in maniera vaga. Il finale è al futuro. Strano modo di esporre e non ho ancora capito se mi piace, ma è probabilmente l'unica pecca di questo romanzo. La trama è così semplice che sembra quasi banale, ma come tutte le cose semplici ha una sua complessità innata e recondita che fa fare strani voli al cuore, capitomboli allo stomaco e rischia di far tracimare lacrime. Non ho pianto, ma ho sospirato. Se amate questo genere di coppie non fatevelo sfuggire. E brava io quando mi sono appuntata la recensione in un blog di cui nemmeno ricordo il nome.

Rilettura. Quando si crea un'affinità tra il proprio sé e quello dell'autrice è come se si fosse amiche da sempre. Ci si sente d'accordo, si capiscono i punti di vista, si segue la trama passo passo, come un rapporto che si costruisce fra due persone giorno dopo giorno. Così è con Dianne, per me. Non ci conosciamo né ciò avverrà mai, ma so che condividiamo la passione per storie di questo genere. E chissà quante altre ne potrebbe raccontare. L'amore fra diversi che tanto amo leggere qui si estremizza sconfinando nel desiderio materno di "possedere" la propria prole. La madre di Tom è quasi la protagonista indiscussa delle scelte di vita di tutti, primari e comprimari. Lei crea, lei giudica, le distrugge. Tale è il suo potere da mettere a rischio persino l'amore che Tom prova per Alyson. Un amore giovane, totale, vero e indissolubilmente tenace. Adoro, adoro, adoro questo romanzo. È il più costoso che ho in libreria, ma non mi delude mai.

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## Kelly Illegems says

Lang verhaal en liefde tussen een kind en volwassene is strafbaar en ongeloofwaardig

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## Terrie says

Finally, a troubled romance with a decent ending. Not as much like a Lifetime movie as I expected and good overall.

Sidenote - not available for Kindle, so I ordered the paperback. Much amused when my email from Amazon said "Your order of 'A Much Younger Man' and 3 more items has shipped"

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## Robin says

He's 15, she's 35. I don't think I'd write home about this book, but it has some redeeming moments.

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### **Andrea says**

A Much Younger Man is a beautifully written novel. They are two people who do not quite fit into the world they inhabit, Aly is emotionally damaged from an abusive marriage and Tom is the product of two professionals he has been well educated culturally and socially. It still begs the question what would a then 15 year old boy see in a woman who is one of his mother's peers? But that question isn't as glaring as it would be in the hands of a less accomplished storyteller. To read the full review and more see Penny Dreadful Books and Reviews.

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### **Bookfanatic says**

This book is written so well that you don't feel as though she, the older heroine, took advantage of him, the much younger hero. If it had been that, I wouldn't have read this story. He's a teenager when they meet; the privileged son of the heroine's friend. She's an attractive woman in her mid-thirties. Besides being charming, he's clearly quite perceptive, clever, and mature for his age. Their love story is written intelligently in very poetic language without being overly graphic. There isn't a whole lot of conversation. The author's writing style reminded me of Michael Ondaatje who wrote *The English Patient*. He has a very lyrical, almost poetic way with words. In much the same way, Dianne Highbridge's language is deceptively simple yet evocative and haunting. The Aussies obviously have a different take on a relationship between an older teenager and a grown woman. I would never have guessed that I would root for these two, but both characters are so endearing and likable that you root for them to find happiness over the objections of others. I loved this book. Not sure I will part with it.

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### **Katie M. says**

This book reads like the wet dream of a woman deep in the throes of a midlife crisis - and really, I'm all about the nontraditional romances, so you have to fail pretty hard to make me give up in disgust at a story like this. But it was just... so... lame.

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### **Kewpie says**

This book is one of my "Great Guilty Pleasures" titles. A Lolita for women! A 30 something year old teacher has an intense affair with her best friend's 16 year old son (Don't worry TOO much, in this book 16 is the legal age of consent)It's actually as sweet book and the characters have a lot of depth to them. Even though it is all sorts of wrong, it's such an emotional read and the characters were so sympathetic and realistic. I would not condone the events in this book in real life, but it really was a good read.

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### **Holly Esterline says**

It took a little bit to get used to the writing style, but I enjoyed it once I got used to it. A great love story, but I'm still having a hard time with the boy's age

page 206: "Out of all the things that happen, on all the journeys you make, in only a few will you ever see a meaning. You take them if you can or if you must, and let the rest go. The ones you keep, they're yours."

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### **Pamela Pickering says**

Hard to peg this one. The subject matter of course is a little uncomfortable but so was the author's writing style. I just can't put my finger on it--it seemed so fragmented and incomplete. Otherwise, I can't really say much about the book. Perhaps I was hoping for a real zinger like the movie "Notes on a Scandal" based on the book by Zoe Heller (which I haven't read) and found this story falling far short by comparison.

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### **Nancy says**

Saw this in a "Books that will change your life" list. Umm...no. Little explanation how or why these two "fell in love". And why is it ok for a 30-something teacher to have a relationship with a 16 year old again? (Even though the age of consent in Australia is 16?)

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### **Krista says**

Lyrical, beautiful, simple, heartbreaking, healing, perfect. I read it in two days. Anyone who would rate this book less than 4 stars, or would dislike it because the subject matter is taboo or the writing seems unrealistic has never experienced, secretly or publicly, love for anything that the world might view as taboo. Which would lead me to ask, are you really being honest with yourself?

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### **KarenH says**

I was totally intrigued by the number of favorable reviews this book has received, given the subject matter is one that perhaps the majority of readers would find, on the surface, distasteful. Surprisingly, the praise for *A Much Younger Man* is not unfounded, as the author handled the relationship between Alyson & Tom very delicately, easing the reader into a relationship probably deemed taboo by the majority of civilized society. I mean, seriously, how many love stories have you read where you are rooting with all your heart for the couple to be together when said couple is a 16 year old boy and a 35 year old woman?

Before you think to toss Alyson into the poky for statutory rape, this is a contemporary story that takes place in Australia, where the legal age of consent is 16. Legalities thus being the least of their problems, the near star-crossed lovers are constantly swimming upstream in the real world - disillusionment, disapproval, disbelief, severed family ties, broken friendships, jobs lost and opportunities denied - every day is a struggle. But together at home, Alyson & Tom shut out the rest of the world and bask in the warmth of their love for each other. Alyson - having only one prior relationship, with a husband that beat her, is as innocent to the joys of true love as Tom. But her marital experience has left her wary and she subconsciously knows the

other shoe will eventually drop. Tom, on the other hand, is an innocent "old soul" (if there can be such a person). He understands the sacrifices he is making by having a relationship with Alyson but it never deters him. He is solid, sure and a rock to Alyson's fragility. He knows what he wants now and in the future and all of those plans include Alyson. He is the proverbial guy who, when handed lemons, makes lemonade.

Unfortunately, something happens that ends the relationship and crushes Tom's spirit. Innocence is replaced by the harshness of reality, and both Tom and Alyson - while appearing to be functioning normally - on the inside are dying a little bit every day as each moves on without the other. At this point, the age difference is all but forgotten (it seems so unimportant now) and you fervently hope, when they finally happen to meet again, that the flame has not burned out.

I really loved this story and the unusual way the author chose to tell it. She has an unorthodox style that I can't even begin to describe but certainly enjoyed. Therefore, I found it a little depressing that *A Much Younger Man*, written in 1999, has been Dianne Highbridge's first and only novel to date.

I recommend this book to any romance readers looking for something completely different from what you normally read...and maybe just a little outside of your boundaries.

5 stars

Note: I didn't have to suspend disbelief at all for this story. About 6 years ago, I was playing on an online mahjongg/wordscape league. Two other members - she was 31, divorced with 1 small daughter, he was 16 and a junior in high school - decided they were in love. She lived in So. Calif and he in Australia. She went over there to meet him and, even though he was of legal age, it became a huge scandal fueled by the media. They were on the cover of every Aussie rag mag, vying for the country's attention with the story of the birth of Suri Cruise. I never saw either one of them again until about 2 weeks ago when she happened to be playing wordscape in the same room as I was. She told me they have been happily married now for 5 years and have brought 2 more daughters into the world!

\*sigh\* I love a good HEA

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## **Denali says**

This was a beautiful book, a quick read, and very different from a lot of the other younger/older books I've read. Highbridge touches only lightly on the usual developmental milestones that tend to define these books (work & school, parent & child etc) and focuses more on the work of separating and rebuilding the emotional ties and relationships that these milestones dictate. For all the scandal potential, AYM maintains a calm steady voice, never veering into drama even as dramatic events unfold. Surprising and pleasing.

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## **Emi Bevacqua says**

I was surprised to see how well-received this book was, and was eager to read it myself. The story is about Alyson, a 35-year old divorced high school teacher who falls in love with her friend's 15 year old son. My favorite part of the book is when Aly, racked with guilt and unable to sleep, writes up a list of comparable scenarios from literature and popular culture: "Mrs. Robinson... Der Rosenkavalier. The Marschallin, making

losing sound great. Kate Chopin. What kind of sell-out is that, The Awakening? She's still got to die! The French. Edith Piaf shares her grave with a young man."

As a cradle robber myself, I had hoped this book would legitimize the sleazy topic, but in that regard it fails. I was afraid to be seen reading this. Too many exclamation points! Steamy Herb Ritz-like cover art! Exuberant lechery!

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