



The Millionaire Upstairs

M.J. O'Shea

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He might be hard to work for, but he's impossible to resist.

Sasha Sobieski has the perfect job working at legendary American fashion house Harrison Kingsley—or at least he used to. He just never thought he'd have to work for Harrison Kingsley himself. Harrison is exacting, difficult, cold, and hands-down the sexiest man Sasha has ever seen.

After years at the top, Harrison Kingsley knows what he wants, when he wants it, and exactly how he'd like it to be delivered to him. What he wants most right now? His new assistant. Sasha is mouthy, opinionated, and he drives Harrison mad. Problem is, Harrison can never tell if it's with anger... or desire.

The Millionaire Upstairs Details

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From Reader Review The Millionaire Upstairs for online ebook

Catherine says

The Millionaire Upstairs had me in the palm of its deliberately cheesy hands for 95% of the book.

I mean, it's a universal truth that I could have done with more sexy bedroom scenes, but I was enjoying the luxurious settings (who wants to whisk me away to Lake Como?!) and the characters who were so different in terms of their personalities and approaches to life, yet had enough in common that I believed that they made sense together. I liked the tension between Sasha and Harrison, and how Sasha didn't shy away from calling Harrison on his bullshit when the situation called for it. At the same time, I also appreciated how Sasha could find it within himself to accept an honest apology and agree to move forward. People *do* make mistakes, but when they do, most of the time they also deserve a second chance.

And Harrison got his second chance.

And when he screwed *that* up, it seems that he got a third.

In the final scenes of the book there was *yet again* a scene in which Harrison said some deeply cutting remarks to the man he supposedly loves. This was followed by the typical grand gesture and apology and expressions of love that we're all expecting from our romance novels. Except... By this point, I'm over Harrison. I may believe he means his apology, but it's just one too many times; I don't believe he's actually *learned* anything from these experiences that would make him act any differently in the future. And picturing a future between Sasha and Harrison where they are caught in this same unhealthy cycle just makes me sad.

The "HEA" in a romance novel shouldn't make me *sad*.

Ultimately, it's O'Shea's book and her creative decisions that drive it, but I think she pushed her characters beyond the point of no return and then tried to return them. It just didn't work for me.

Ele says

This is my second read from Dreamspun Desires and I'm starting to think that this series isn't for me. So far, both books were pretty slow paced, low on the steam, with a Harlequin romance vibe to them (I guess it's not just the lovely covers that send out that vibe!)

In "*Millionaire Upstairs*" there were things that I liked, and things that I didn't.

The good:

Sasha. He is a great character and I loved his snarkiness. I also loved that he was no doormat, no matter how many times Harrison acted like an asshole.

The enemies-to-lovers trope. It was done well and I enjoyed the push and pull between Sasha and Harrison. It also had a funny element to it which was nice.

The setting. Fabulous, posh and glamorous setting, first at The Hamptons and later in Milan.

The writing was good too.

The bad:

Harrison. Well, I like my MCs to be real douchebags from time to time, but this guy kept hurting Sasha right until 92% of the book, calling him names and making derogatory comments in front of other people...(view spoiler)

Harrison's "redemption" and the way he chose to apologise in the end (see Harlequin vibe that I mentioned earlier). (view spoiler)

It felt too **slow**. The MCs only got together at 75% and didn't really spend time together. I guess I needed more romance. All these details about fashion and the fashion world were fine, but I'd rather have more time and space for the couple.

I really didn't like **Joanne**, Harrison's sister. I think she was supposed to be a good person, but to me she seemed manipulative and selfish.

Overall, this was just meh for me, but it could just be a case of "it's not you, it's me".

You should read JLoves2Read's review as she had a totally different experience than I did.

Cross-posted on Gay Book Reviews

Camille Adams says

Recommended for those who like easy, simplistic, Devil-Wears-Prada-ish stories with superficial, materialistic, privileged characters, plot points, and settings.

Sasha is a Jory-like twink who everyone loves and upon whom execs rely and fight over though the reader is not able to perceive what makes him so special or talented. He's also reputed to be sassy because we're told he's sassy again and again though nothing in the story evinces such.

Overall: quite meh, though new m/m readers and those who believe in the television version of New York may enjoy it.

Jennifer?Pher? says

Somehow that went from a solid 4★ read down to, well, I guess a 3★ read in a matter of seconds.

I've been anxious to dig into this "series" since it came out. I loved the idea of taking something I loved as a kid (yikes) and updating it and doing it for the M/M genre. I found the idea so clever and like I said, I was anxious.

Up until the 90% mark I was pleased with the result of said cleverness. The book read like what I remember of the Harlequins of my past and I was really into it.

Then I wasn't. The last bit of behavior was just too much for me and it left me feeling not so good and not even chasing my necessary HEA.

So, still clever and good just somehow this book went south.

I will try the others though. I still think this is a neat concept and can't expect to love them all.

Valerie ❀M/M Romance Junkie❀ says

I think I really would have enjoyed this had it not been for the whiplash inducing, assbattery of Harrison. On more than one occasion, he went out his way to be a complete and utter dick (and not in a sexy way) to Sasha.

I loved Sasha, but making him accept Harrison was equivalent to making him a fucking doormat. Sasha did nothing to deserve his treatment and accepted that BS for entirely too long. And I'm sorry, but Harrison's "reasoning" for his dickish behavior didn't wash with me. That dog won't hunt.

I liked the premise, but the characterization of Harrison really turned me off.

2.5* rounded down because of the final insult.

Vanna says

DNF at 47%.. My second Dreamspun book.... started reading it in May when I was looking for something light.. Finally gave up today. I don't think Dreamspun books are for me. The other one wasn't that impressive either. This story started out slow..was very low on steam despite the slow burn.. and the main MC was such an jerk that I just could not finish it. Into the book grave this goes.. RIP!!

~Mindy Lynn~ says

I'm not sure what I was expecting when reading this. I didn't see many great reviews on it, but I'd seen some good ones for the books that follow. So being the complete book nerd I am I can't read any of the other books without reading them in order even if the characters and stories don't flow together. So I bought it. I didn't not like it, I just found it to be forgettable. The characters really didn't stand out and I didn't connect to any of them or find myself liking any of them.

I found Harrison to be a complete ass. I really didn't find his reasoning to be all that convincing or acceptable. It was just like, really?

I liked Sasha but I found him to be kind of a weak character. I just felt like he forgave easily and, like a previous reviewer stated, to be a bit of a doormat. Didn't like that.

Another one I didn't care for was Harrison's sister, Joanne. I kind of liked her at the beginning but as the story went I found her to be manipulative and greedy.

The parts I did enjoy, even though they were very few in this book, was his interactions with his bestie and roommate, Mateo. I enjoyed their scenes in the book and would even enjoy reading more about Mateo. I found him and his work interesting.

Even though I didn't enjoy this one so much, I am looking forward to the other books in the series.

Sara says

This cover brings me back to the days I would sneak in to my older sisters room to steal her Harlequin Romances. Not the Super Romances mind you, I was only able to grab one of those, but the smaller stories with the similar covers and the couple inside who made me feel gooey.

Yup. This brings me way back and I love it for that. I love that Dreamspinner is bringing back the category romance with the boy on boy love.

This book was fun and this book made me want to smack a few people and this book made me sigh. So at the end of the last page, this book was good.

Sasha and Harrison.

The boss and the employee.

Enemies to lovers.

The asshole and the adorable.

I have a thing for redeemable asshole's and they seem to be my jam lately. Harrison was a total prick, but he had reasons for a his actions. Does that excuse them? No, but if you can't relate to someone like him when you GET his reasons, you won't like the story and I liked the story. I have a thing for the underdog, even when he fucks up because his mouth runs faster than his brain and his heart.

Sasha was too stinking cute and curvy. I can't stop thinking about him being compact and curvy and yeah. One track mind I have but whatevs. Sasha wasn't a doormat. He knew what he wanted in his career and he wasn't so blind or arrogant to know his current employment would open more doors even if staying was torture at times. Again, being able to put yourself in the position of the character makes a huge difference and for me, I was able to do this with both, regardless of gender or social status.

Whoa... *jumps off soapbox*

Anyway. This was a fun take on the enemies to lovers trope. I really like the sweet times the boys shared together and laughed out loud at Joanne calling Harrison to ask WTAF was wrong with him an he was so melodramatic about the whole thing! I'm glad everyone was able to see passed all the bullshit and fall in love.

Oh and Lancelot, stole the show each and every scene he was in.

Love Bytes Reviews says

2 Heart Review by Kimberley

If there was ever a book where the blurb caught your attention but the book was somewhat of a disappointment, this one would be it. It wasn't the writing that was bad, it was just that the characters were so unlikable.

Let me break them down by character:

Sasha: His character wasn't as self assured or as strong as the blurb lead on. Sasha had absolutely no backbone to speak of. He not only allowed himself to be manipulated by his friend and boss, but he was way too accepting of Harrison's abusive behavior towards him. From their initial meeting and on every contact Sasha had with Harrison resulted in Harrison belittling him. Even with this unacceptable behavior towards him, Sasha was wildly attracted to him.

Harrison continues to belittle him even when they finally entered into a relationship together. And it wasn't only when Harrison lost his temper, either. It was sometimes random. Everything will be going fine and then, wham! Harrison would belittle or yell at him. And later it was always "I'm sorry, it won't happen again" and Sasha would forgive him. Then something else would happen and of course Harrison would do it again.

It was an abusive relationship where the abuser would abuse their mate, apologize, only to turn around and do it again, again, again. And again. He also allowed his boss, who claimed to be his friend and Harrison's sister, manipulate him. Which brings me to...

Joanne Kingsley: A manipulative woman who does not understand the concept of professional conduct. She knew that her brother had a habit of belittling her assistant. So instead of talking to her brother about it, she puts her assistant directly in his reach and then manipulates him in the hopes of honey trapping her brother to sign off on a business deal. What kind of friend, boss, business woman does that?

I could not wrap my brain around a business woman who would put her assistant—her assistant—in the very difficult and awkward position of talking her brother, who is her partner/co-owner in a multimillion dollar corporation, into signing off on a business deal that he's already—on numerous occasions—refused to enter into. So instead of doing what a real business woman would do and defending her position and convincing her brother as to why the business venture would be successful, she decides to get her way by manipulation. Not only that, she does it in the guise of playing matchmaker. That made it worse because she does this in the hopes of Sasha possibly honey trapping her brother into this business venture. Unbelievable.

Then last AND least: Harrison Kingsley: He was moody, verbally abusive, and emotionally stunted. There weren't any redeeming qualities about him. Absolutely none.

The story didn't flow as smoothly as it could have. There was too much emphasis on the trivial aspects of story: the development of the fashion lines, the photo shoots, advertising. The constant behind the scenes of the fashion industry written in bogged the story down; it was superfluous. It was that combined with the constant name-dropping of fashion designers came off as pretentious.

I wanted to like this story and I tried very hard to like this story, but I just couldn't. Between Harrison's douche-y, verbally abusive behavior, Joanne's manipulation and Sasha's willingness to accept it all didn't make this story an enjoyable to read for me.

This book was provided free in exchange for a fair and honest review for Love Bytes. Go there to check out other reviews, author interviews, and all those awesome giveaways. Click below.

Em says

The premise of this book had everything going for it. Honestly, boss/employee and love/hate relationships are some of my favorite MM Romance tropes. Yet even with all these things, I didn't like this book.

I couldn't enjoy this book largely due to the characters and how they behaved. Harrison was a douchebag, Sasha was a doormat, and Joanne was kind of a manipulative bitch. I felt like the author was trying really hard to make us like--if not love--the characters, but I just couldn't get over how horribly they acted (especially Harrison with the insults and Joanne with the stupid Applebaum thing!)

Also, some of the passages had me rolling my eyes so hard that I was afraid they'd fall out of their sockets. For example, this gem here...

"He was small, fair, and delicate, at least compared to Harrison, but he had these curvy thighs Harrison wanted to bite into, and big innocent brown eyes."

"Curvy thighs"?! Seriously?! I thought for a second I was transported to some MF Harlequin Universe.

I've loved some of MJ O'Shea's work, but this was definitely not one of them.

Meags says

3 Stars

It only took me a year and a half, but I've finally read my first *Dreamspun Desires* story! I'm definitely a huge fan of the idea behind this series and will no doubt read more, probably to a weird and obsessive degree, but for now I need to do some venting about this particular read.

I'm feeling chipper today so I'll begin with the good stuff.

Firstly, I loved the premise, by which Sasha's boss, Joanne Kingsley, sends Sasha to work for her fashion house mogul brother, Harrison Kingsley, for a summer in the Hamptons while she's on maternity leave. Sasha and Harrison have shared a heated attraction since they met two years ago, but have both decided to channel that attraction into animosity whenever they come into contact, initially making for a fun and entertaining enemies-to-lovers dynamic.

Secondly, I appreciated the delicious slow-burn. There was no insta-love here, which was great; Sasha had to work his way through Harrison's personal defenses and past his often scathing exterior to see the man within. Although, I ultimately had issues with Harrison as a person, but more on that later...

Thirdly, I liked all the secondary characters, from Sasha's sassy BFF, to his adorable little kitten, Lancelot, and most everyone in-between.

Lastly, I enjoyed the settings within this story. A large amount of time is spent in the Hamptons, but there is

also a brief trip to beautiful Lake Como in Italy that was fun (and envy inducing) to read about.

Unfortunately, much like the experiences of many of my GR friends, this story was going really well for me until about the 80% mark. Harrison mucked up and said some asshole-ish things to Sasha, not once, but THREE times. The first time, like Sasha, I eventually forgave; the second and (definitely) the third times, not so much. I went from eager to see Harrison explain himself and win Sasha's love once and for all, to completely convinced that he was an unchangeable, elitist prick who didn't deserve Sasha at all. Harrison's final bullshit argument, which was loosely disguised as a piss-poor apology, didn't fly with me at all. I simply didn't buy that someone could say such hateful and hurtful things, over and over and over again, to someone they supposedly cared deeply for, and not mean them in some way. Nope, that's not on.

Basically, I feel like the ending could have been handled a different way. At least to the point that readers like myself – who are generally very forgiving – wouldn't end up disliking Harrison's character so much. It seems like a shame to me, because one of the aspects I liked most when hearing about *Dreamspun Desires* was that the series would be largely angst-free and focus on fun tropes, with guaranteed swoony HEAs... yet, this first offering featured a HFN (at best) which I honestly didn't believe in.

shakes off bad vibes and gets back to being chipper

Regardless of my issues towards the end, there was still a lot to like about this one. I'm a fan of O'Shea's work in general and even though I personally didn't enjoy the ending here, I have complete confidence that this is likely to be a one off experience for me when it comes to reading her lovely stories.

DarienMoya says

2.5

THE RICH ASSHOLE UPSTAIRS

So here I am on the Dreamspun Desires bandwagon, and wanting to see what all the fuss is about. I love the idea behind the series, and just the overall harlequin-y feel of it all. If there isn't a title called "*The Millionaires Secret Adoptive Baby*" then I might as well call it quits now. Every series has to have a secret baby.

Sasha Sobieski just landed his dream job of working with a top fashion designer house "*Harrison Kingsley*". A small town boy like him never dreamt he'd be working with the big dogs, and after two years with the company he's finally making a name for himself. To his utter shock and surprise, his boss asks him to lend a helping hand to her egotistical/asshole of a brother Harrison. Sasha and Harrison do not get along, based solely on the fact that Harrison has always been a class A jerk to him. Ruling out the fact that Harrison is drop dead gorgeous and his voice alone can send Sasha into vapors, he's a jerk, brilliant but a jerk.

Harrison Kingsley, designer extraordinaire and a Oscar worthy jerk. His sister grants him the use and expertise of Sasha and what does he do, treat him like a maid all in an effort to keep him at arms length. Because Sasha is too pretty and pretty things are a distraction (cue major eye rolls).

Ah, what can I say. This started out strong, Sasha's voice was exciting and interesting, then Harrison comes

along and feck things up. There were moments of cuteness and breakthrough and Harrison and Sasha seemed like they would make a great couple and then Harrison would open his mouth and things would go down. I'm not talking just being mean, I'm talking the most demeaning shit you could say to a person. I wasn't here for Harrison at all, because fool me once shame on you fool me twice, well shame on me. Fool me thrice, then I'd officially call myself a fucking idiot and this applies to Sasha. Dude should have packed his bag and left buddy in the rear. No sob story can cover up the fact that he's an asshole.

I would have loved this, man I would have loved this but the writing felt like some bad soap opera, this hot and cold thing was giving me whiplash. There was no clear balance and I was glad when it was over. I liked Sasha well enough but Harrison can suck it! Dreamspun your first offering left much to be desired but I'm not giving up on you yet.

Tess says

3.25 stars

I probably shouldn't have bought this book in this first place because the millionaire/billionaire trope is just not my thing. And, now that I've read this, it's still definitely not my thing!

Actually, my biggest issue with this is that I couldn't get over Harrison's actions. Also, his excuses for the bad things he says about Sasha throughout never seemed valid to me.

Jaime says

4.5 Stars to an Office Romance in the world of High Fashion

This is book 1 in Dreamspinner Press's new Dreamspun Desires Collection. I read them out of order, so it's my second book of the new series.

Dreamspun Desires are contemporary category romance novels, complete with your favorite heartwarming heroes, captivating plots, and exotic settings. These titles are all about happily ever afters that leave you with a satisfied smile for days.

This was a feel good read with a huge slow burn. Sasha is new to the world of Fashion and lands an excellent job at a top fashion designers firm, *Harrison Kingsley*. Harrison Kingsley is named after designer, Harrison Kingsley and is run by the designer and his sister Joanne Kingsley. Harrison is known to be aloof, moody, egocentric, and sometimes just flat out rude..however, his behaviors are mostly overlooked and accepted due to his influence on fashion. Sasha is so excited to have landed a job with the firm, even if it's with Joanne Kingsley.

Two years pass.....

Joanne is leaving for maternity leave and she decided in her absence that Sasha can....yep you guessed it, work with Harrison. (view spoiler) So Sasha and Lancelot move from their little apartment in NYC to the spacious and regal Kingsley Court in The Hampton's and the fun begins!

As Harrison and Sasha start spending more time together there is more than one feeling floating between the men, including lust, attraction, bewilderment, and a little irritation. However, Sasha is now unable to hide from nor deny his attraction towards Harrison and to his surprise Sasha is finding out that Harrison might feel something for Sasha.

The slow burn continues...a kiss is shared...

then (view spoiler)

Sasha relegates himself to being *just* an employee and things cool down at Kingsley's Court. However, our author has promised a happily ever after .. But how is she going to get these two men there? Let me tell you there is a trip to Milan, the help of Lancelot, A party in white, and a couple more misunderstandings that these poor MC are put through.

Things I loved:

Overall, I think the author does a wonderful job of character development, of creating the slow burn, of setting the stage for the office romance, and of fully resolving the conflict. I enjoyed watching the softer side of Harrison Kingsley come to light and watch as he let his walls down, learning and accepting love from Sasha. I loved little Lancelot!

Things I didn't like:

I would have loved to have maybe another chapter at the end..I am greedy after all and I like to see my characters living their happily ever after. So far the books in this "Dreamspun Desires" by Dreamspinner are shorter books, there isn't a lot of bedroom scenes or heat between the MC, and we don't get to see much of the happily ever after.

*ARC provided by author / publisher in exchange for an honest review. Reviewed by Jaime from Alpha Book Club and Gay Book Reviews

Lelyana says

Meh.

Took me 2 days to finished this book, considering to put it down so many times, but finished it anyway (did

some skimming some part).

I'm bored easily and Harrison irritated me to tears.

I don't think Sasha can stay long with him in the future. I liked to think Sasha should date Mateo instead, they're so sweet and good for each other.

This is so '*Harlequin-y*', especially the ending. Both Joanna and Harrison are some manipulative person.

Blah.

I really wanted to like this one, when I started this, I was planning to give it 4 stars. And the stars keeps falling along Harrison's douchebag behavior.

Oh well, I guess this kind of story is just not my cuppa.

Move on...
