



What Matters Most

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JOSEY HANEY, plumber extraordinaire, ace car mechanic and a fairly competent carpenter, doesn't deal well with change. With her two brothers wrapped up in their own domestic bliss, and her grandparents recently retired from the family business, Jo feels left out and adrift. When she meets William Prescott, the mutual attraction is instantaneous, but she's blue collar and he's white collar. In fact, he's so far out of her league their ballparks aren't even in the same state. Still, she needs a date for her brother's wedding, and Will is available.

WILLIAM PRESCOTT is in the midst of a crisis. Representing multi-national corporations and crushing the little guy has brought him great success, but at what cost? He's dissatisfied with the direction his career has taken, and working seventy hour weeks leaves him no time for socializing. He's on a two week staycation to recover from burnout. After which, his ambitious, driven parents expect him to return to his career with renewed, shark-like vigor. When Josey Haney shows up to unclog his bathroom sink, she lights a spark within him that could lead to major life changes. When she asks him to be her date for her brother's wedding, he's all in . . . if Josey is willing to agree to his quid pro quo terms.

William charms her family and proves he can fit into her world, but it's another story for Josey. His pretentious parents remind her of everything she isn't, and old wounds are opened. Can the high octane lawyer and the sexy plumber forge a Cinderella story, or are they heading for a Romeo and Juliet heartbreak?

What Matters Most Details

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From Reader Review What Matters Most for online ebook

Darcy says

This was a fun one to read. I worried at first when Jo was driving up to Will's house, because things could have gone so very wrong, that he could have been an entitled prick. I liked how smitten Will was with Jo, loved that he admired her skills as a plumber, not looked down at her. I think it helped that Will was at a crossroads and by spending time with Jo he realized how much he was missing in his own. I really liked the changed that Will decided to make in his life, loved that Jo was right there cheering him on, heck she even thought of ways to make the plan better.

With things going great for Will and Jo you knew that there was going to be a bump. I also knew it would come from Will's parents, who were horrible. When it happened it things were brutal and I raged with Jo for what Will didn't do. Later when Will's friend Greg chimed in Will's reaction made sense.

I loved how Jo's brothers reacted, how they were ready to throttle Will and later then how they helped Will win Jo back. Jo's family is so big and supportive that I found it odd that they didn't support her in regards to the business. I didn't buy the argument that the uncles had and thought the Grandpa's action was a cop out.

I was happy how this one ended, loved that Will and Jo made up and how they were living their HEA.

Carolann Craun says

Saving the best for last. Book 3 is a delight!

Realistic characters, dialogue, and situations. I feel as if I just made a new friend in Josey Haney, as well as continuing friendships with the characters in the two previous books in the series. Barbara Langley books are a romantic escape in a realistic world. Believable, and they end with a smile. When you finish one of her books , you are left wishing there was more to the story. I can never put it down until the end.

Bette Hansen says

What Matters Most is the third book in The Haney's series but it is easily read as a standalone. I've been anxiously waiting for Josey's story and Ms. Longley did not disappoint with what she delivered. It's the story of a woman who has grown up and worked beside all the males in her family in the home repair business they own and operate. She's full of sass, spunk, and confidence making her maybe just a tad intimidating. Now she's surrounded by loving couples and it has her wondering if she'll ever find a guy who isn't intimidated by all the skills she's learned. Surely that couldn't be Mr. well to do lawyer William Prescott! Sure he's called her out for various silly jobs around his house but could he be interested in her? I highly recommend you grab this one and get the full story. I'm sure you'll enjoy it!

Liz says

Josey meets Will when he calls for a plumber... and he's instantly smitten. But she has lots of issues and doesn't think they're a good fit given their blue collar/white collar backgrounds.

There's lots of growing to do -- by both of them -- and Josey doesn't get her way when she asks to have the business' name changed. I was incredibly hurt for her. I loved how strong and smart she is... and I love that Will finally figured out how to ask for what he wants from his parents.

The tension comes from his parents's attitudes and expectations and Will not speaking up against their behaviors. It makes him more real but a bit of cliche of "clueless man."

Sarah says

This novel was a greatly penned romance. The "hotshot" white collar lawyer with the blue collar plumber made for a really good storyline. Will and Jo (Josey) are opposites in every way. Him from wealth with cold and aloof parents and her from a large, hard working and close family that have a successful family run business. I absolutely loved Jo's family dynamics and seeing how Will and Jo were able to make their lives blend. Of course, a great story isn't a great story without a little angst and sadness and the author made sure to include enough heartache to make the eventual HEA so much more worthwhile.

Angela says

I've been a fan of Barbara's contemporary stories since picking up Far from Perfect (her Perfect, Indiana series) shortly after it was published. She's an amazing crafter of characters and plots that reach in and grip your heart, and What Matters Most, the story of Josey Haney, is every bit as good a story as I've come to expect from her.

Josey is a master plumber who has all but given up hope of finding a man who isn't intimidated by her. Will is an incredibly wealthy, successful lawyer whose life is not fulfilling. Both are extremely lonely. Thanks to a clogged drain they meet, and the attraction is instantaneous, but they seem to be worlds apart. Josey is terrified; what if Will turns out to be like all those other men? She likes him, he'll hurt her – maybe she shouldn't take a chance.

Of course, there are plot complications and twists galore, and we see plenty of Josey's brothers Sam and Wyatt, as well as their partners. We met all of them in the preceding two books, and while What Matters Most can be read as a standalone, I do suggest readers start with What You Do to Me (Haneys Book 1) – this is a fun family to visit with, it's better to get the full opportunity. We see their silliness, as well as their willingness to uplift Josey or call her on her mistakes when it's necessary. Overall, we experience the abiding love the Haney family members have for each other, and we understand why Josey is feeling a bit desperate to start her own family, to share that special closeness with someone. I don't think you can praise an author more than to say you were completely absorbed in the world she created, felt sad during the characters' bad times and wanted to shake sense into them. Barbara has done it again! I received an advance copy of this lovely story in return for my honest review. I highly recommend the book.

Andi says

I really enjoyed Josey & Will's story. It was a very down to earth book about real people & the struggles that every couple face. I also enjoyed having Sam & Wyatt & their families in so much of the book.

Merged review:

I really enjoyed Josey & Will's story. It was a very down to earth book about real people & the struggles that every couple face. I also enjoyed having Sam & Wyatt & their families in so much of the book.

Margaret Watkins says

In this well written contemporary romance, the reader is drawn immediately into the story and is carried on a wave of romance all the way through to the end. I love the main characters with their very different personalities and background. As a blue collar master plumber, Josey will never be out of work but regrettably not many guys appreciate her talents. Will, the lawyer, is confident in his own skin and not at all threatened by the fact that Josey functions in a male dominated world. However, getting Josey to accept that he appreciates her abilities is no easy task. Meeting Will's parents derails their relationship as Mr and Mrs Prescott show their disdain for Will's choice of girlfriend, not to mention his career choices. It takes the concerted efforts of the Haney family to work out a resolution. One cannot read this story without becoming involved with the whole Haney tribe and their noisy family get togethers. One just has to love them all, despite their stubbornness and teasing. Although this book is part of a series, it is nevertheless a standalone and comes to a very happy conclusion. I received a copy of this novel as a gift and this is my honest and voluntary review.

Heather says

There is minimal cursing (no f-bombs) and some on-page sex so if that will cause you to leave a bad review, this probably isn't the book for you. Although What Matters Most is part of a larger series, you do not have to read the first two books to enjoy this one – it features characters from the previous books, but it also completely stands alone.

After really loving the first two books in this series, I was really looking forward to reading Josey's story, and Ms. Longley didn't disappoint. Josey was every bit the tough and incredibly capable woman that I wanted her to be, but we also got to see her softer, more vulnerable side which made her such a beautifully rounded character. As a lawyer who had always had money, Will's white collar existence was the total opposite of Jo's working class lifestyle, but I loved that he never once judged her as 'less than' or beneath him, but instead he saw and admired Jo for the skilled, fantastic woman that she is. Another thing that I loved was seeing the progression of the lives of Sam and Wyatt and the way that the other Haney's were such a big part of Jo's life. The scenes with her grandparents made my chest tighten with envy, Brady was absolutely adorable, and Jerry was wonderful, as always. All of the people Jo loves were a big part of this book (because the Haney's are a packaged deal) but they don't overwhelm it, it's the perfect balance.

I would highly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a well-written opposites attract story. If you've read the first two books, you'll love this one. If you haven't, you really should and then you should read this one.

MAJOR SPOILERS IN THIS ONE PARAGRAPH This is the end of the review so do not read on unless you want to be spoiled! (view spoiler)

Kristen Lewendon says

I first got to know Josey during Wyatt's book and I knew right then that I wanted to see what it would take for her to find her happily-ever-after. Now that I've read what she and Will went through, I know it's taken a whole heck of a lot to get there. I loved watching Will and Josey fall in love. And I enjoyed even more watching them grow beyond the behaviors and beliefs that were holding them back. There's something very special about the way the whole Haney clan interacts, with each other and with the other people in their orbit. I'm nowhere near ready to say "goodbye" to this wonderful family.

I received a complimentary advanced copy of this story.

Susan Page says

A very pleasant story. Josey Haney is an unusual woman, she is a master plumber, working for the family firm. She is extremely good at her job, but ... she is quite lonely now that her two brothers have settled down with their own families. She goes out on a job to fix a blocked bathroom sink for lawyer William Prescott. He lives in a very upmarket house, and she imagines him as a rich old man with a posh luxury car and a young trophy wife. She is dumbfounded when he turns out to be a gorgeous man, not very much older than her. He is extremely taken with her, and they seem to get on well. He is also extremely lonely, he has put his life and soul into a job that is making him unhappy, he works extremely long hours and has pretty much given up all hope of a social life.

They life views fit together well, and they finally get round to dating. They are deliriously happy but the day comes when a particularly gruelling event causes Josey to run away from him, and break up with him by email, rather than speak to him again. Of course, they are both terribly unhappy apart, and Josey's brothers hatch a plan, in collusion with William, to bring them back together. They both have quite a few issues to deal with, they both have misinterpreted the others actions, and caused a lot of their misery by themselves. There are social questions as well, around the snobbery and inverted snobbery between white and blue collar occupations, you see it in action both ways, but Barbara deals with it well, and in a sensible manner.

This is an easy story to read, and it draws you in. You are cheering for both of them in the sidelines. It is very clear that they need each other! Very well worth reading.

George says

A great ending to the Haney saga

Poor Jo - unlucky in love, having both brothers finding their soulmates, upset with the name of the company. I liked that introverted Wyatt was the key in Jo getting to understand how her own attitudes were sabotaging her interaction with men. And Will? Yeah, come back to move my hot water heater 6 inches, because I like you but can't ask you out? Transparent to everyone but Jo. Too bad she couldn't get the name of the Haney & Sons company changed.

Christy B says

I have been impatiently waiting for Josey's book ever since I fell in love with Sam and Wyatt. Josey was great and everything I expected her to be - kickass & tough but guarded. Not too different from her brothers! I loved how Sam and Wyatt were able to read her so easy. Possibly my favorite exchange was between Sam and Josey..."Men are idiots"..."I hate to break it to you Sam, but that's not a secret"..."To the male half of the population it is." Certainly some of my favorite brotherly dating advice I've come across!

Will was amazing and wasn't quite what I expected for Josey - but they worked out perfectly. For having extremely different upbringings they certainly bashed heads a bit and had to work some stuff out before they could get it together and be happy. I love Will's friend Greg and how he was able to point out to Will exactly where he screwed up.

Will and Josey's journey was complicated and perfect. Loved them and I was thrilled to know that Jo finally got her HEA.

Natália says

The best Haney's so far!

The only reason I had not read it yet was Amazon's not making me know of the released or offering the pre-order!

But all ended well since today is a holiday and I could start reading yesterday and finish today! Yay!

Josey is a character that I relate in so many levels. I always chose paths Male dominate, and most guys always got weird when I did thinks better. Until I start dating my husband most of the time I felt like I couldn't be myself (only with my family). Find someone who really loves you and is in your corner is difficult but worthwhile.

Book 3 is all about let yourself trust, show your true self and fall in love. If you like a cute/handsome/smart boyfriend book and a great/intelligent/independent protagonist you will love this book.

Pelusa Rivera says

The last of the Haney's we finally get Josie's story. She meets Will who is her complete opposite, but we know that opposites attract and I was happy that they met and were what the other needed and it was great to read about the rest of the characters, Sam and Hayley and Wyatt and his fam..

