



My Mr. Manny (My Manny Book 1)

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After getting swept up in nostalgia and losing herself in a quickly progressing romance, her fantasy falls apart. She is left to raise her precious little girl, Lucia, on her own. The demands of Mia's work schedule and Lucia's needs increase, and their lives become increasingly hectic. It is soon clear to Mia that she needs help. Luckily, her life-saving cousin saves the day and brings the mother and daughter a male nanny – their new “manny.”

After losing his high-pressure job on Wall Street, Dominic Roberts wants to follow his dreams to have a family. He's already one fiancée down, and there are no likely prospects for another. In order to find the family he so desperately wants, he finds himself getting into the nanny business. Since he is fully qualified to provide childcare and is eager to leave New York City behind, his sister-in-law is able to land him a job in California working for his first client – the beautiful and intriguing Mia Balducci.

Will Lucia like the new man in her mother's life? Will Mia? And will this new trio discover the happily ever after they all so desperately seek?

My Mr. Manny (My Manny Book 1) Details

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Author : Jennifer Garcia

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From Reader Review *My Mr. Manny* (*My Manny Book 1*) for online ebook

Sarah Aisling says

My Mr. Manny is Jennifer Garcia's debut novel. I read a short story, *In My Mother's Footsteps*, written by Ms. Garcia under her pseudonym Forbes Arnone, which I really enjoyed. (You can read my review of that story [here](#).) So, when the opportunity to review her novel came up, I jumped at the chance.

Mia Balducci comes from a big, close-knit Italian family. She leaves all that behind when she moves to the west coast to live with her father. A chance meeting with a childhood friend leads to a whirlwind romance, marriage, and baby. Fast forward a few years and Mia finds herself in a loveless marriage, wondering where things went wrong. Her husband is never home and barely knows their adorable daughter, Lucia. When a defining moment occurs, there is no turning back. Mia must soldier on by herself and face the fact that Lucia's father has no interest in his own child. When things become too much, she ends up hiring a Manny—a male nanny. What commences is a sweet and, at times, hot romance.

Ms. Garcia's writing is evocative and descriptive without being loaded down with purple prose. I have an easy time picturing the scenes through her words.

Mia's daughter, Lucia, was absolutely adorable. The author did an excellent job writing a child character. The dialogue was realistic for her age, and there were the typical misunderstood meanings and phraseology that caused her to ask questions when she was dealing with adult concepts.

I have to admit being a bit put off by Mia's gaga insta-love when she met Dominic (the Manny) for the first time. It would have been nice to see the attraction develop in a more natural way, rather than her being rendered speechless by his beauty.

Dominic is Greek God beautiful and seems perfect to Mia. He fits right in and seems to relate to and develop a connection to little Lucia right off. The only hint of an issue with him seems to be a controlling streak, which I wish had been explored in more depth.

There was a great cast of three-dimensional supporting characters. The love scenes were hot without being explicit or fade-to-black—kudos to Ms. Garcia for straddling that line so well. There were some heartfelt moments and scenes that brought tears to my eyes. Coming from an Italian family myself, there were some great morsels of nostalgia for me.

I think this might have been better as a novella. There was a bit of telling instead of showing at the beginning. Personally, I would have started with Mia walking into her husband's office and making the "discovery." Much of the background before the precipitating event could have been cut without detracting from the meat of the story. The only other critique I have is a lack of drama once Mia and Dom get together. The writing was terrific, the emotions were present, but I expected more conflict.

The book was well edited; I only saw a few minor typos, and my copy was an ARC. I identified with the characters and the emotions the author drew out of me. Overall, a very uplifting, heartwarming debut novel. I look forward to reading more from Jennifer Garcia.

3.75 stars rounded to 4

Read more reviews on my website: www.sarahaisling.com

Sassy Moms Say Read Romance says

Thanks to Jennifer Garcia and Ren Rom publishing for giving me the opportunity to read and review this story. I have been looking forward to this one since Jennifer first mentioned it on Facebook. I wasn't disappointed either.

The concept of a male nanny, manny, is something that is foreign to me, but it intrigues me. This is the second manny story I have read and yet again, I am still intrigued. The way Jennifer told this story was one that had me wanting more and I didn't put it down until I was done. I love that she didn't rush the relationship with Mia and Dominic, even though right from the start you could tell there was a strong attraction. Both Mia and Dominic needed to build slowly up because of what had happened in their pasts.

Lucia has to be one of the sweetest kids I have ever read in a book before. She is vital to the story because if she wasn't, Dominic wouldn't be involved. I love watching her grow and open up in this story.

If you are looking for a sweet romance with a bit of heart break in the beginning, then this is a story you should read. I am looking forward to more from Jennifer!

Carrie Elks says

When I first picked up this book I thought it would be a lightweight, fluffy story about a professional woman and her male au-pair, but nothing could be further from the truth. Although there is lightness in the writing--and the promised HEA--My Mr Manny also explores the pain of a marriage breakup, the fears of moving on, and the fierce attachment that a mother feels toward her child.

The book starts with a scene from Mia's childhood; a golden time when children could run around the block

until nightfall. The scene establishes the importance of her extended family, which is particularly poignant when, at age sixteen, she moves across the country to LA to live with her father. When she reconnects with one of her childhood friends at a college football match, you'd be forgiven to think Mia's found her HEA. But this is only a small way into the story, and we know from the summary that she has many hurdles to face before she can finally be happy.

As Mia goes through the pain of divorce, we get to feel all her emotions; her fear of the future, hurt for her child and anger at the husband who has rejected them. All this is further confused when she is introduced to her cousin's brother--a man looking for a change in career--and interviews him for the position of her Manny (a male nanny of course!)

Dominic is hot. We know that from the start because Mia makes herself look a complete fool in front of him. But he's also kind enough to ignore her fawning, and before long he's offered the job. What follows is a story of love. Not just between Dominic and Mia, but between her daughter, Lucia, and the two of them as well. Love me, love my child could be Mia's motto, and it's clear to see that Dominic does exactly that.

What I loved about the story was the hope that was woven throughout the text. We could have forgiven Mia for feeling angry and bitter after everything she'd faced, after all, who hasn't wanted to give up when trying to work a full time job and raise a child single-handed? But she doesn't do that, she strives to give Lucia a happy childhood, and more importantly is willing to accept help where it's offered. That kind of strength is what attracts Dominic to her, and lights the bright flame that burns between them.

Sarah Aisling says

Review will be up on my website 8-29-13! www.sarahaisling.com

Anita says

This is a sweet romance story which is mostly in 'telling mode' by the main character with some dialogue so the reader only sees one side of the story. I wanted to know the other side of what happened to Mia - in that why did her ex-husband give up all parental rights to their daughter? Why did he go from a man in love to a workaholic who neglected his family? No reasons were given other than he met someone else, but I would have liked to hear his reasoning.

Mia is disappointed about being a divorced mother when she too was a product of a broken marriage. However, it isn't long before she begins a relationship with the first man who comes along, i.e. Dominic her new nanny, and their relationship develops very quickly.

There are lots of mushy moments, though they are nicely written. My only criticism would be that there is no conflict - at all. In fact everything is very easy for Mia, her marriage ends with a five minute tirade at the 'other woman', then follows an easy divorce and an easier transition to her independent life with few tears. Her daughter doesn't appear to miss her father at all, though the author explains this in that Alex wasn't part of her life. She and Dominic have a perfect relationship, no arguments, issues or jealousies - which is nothing like real life.

With such blissful lives, the characters didn't develop as there was nothing for them to overcome. Even Lucia had no problem accepting a man in her mother's life. Mia has a mother back in Boston, but we don't hear much from her, so again that relationship wasn't explored.

I enjoyed the story, but feel it would be better as a novella as there wasn't much meat to the story, and nothing to stand between the couple to threaten their happy ending.

I received a copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review

AnnMarie says

Great debut!

Such a sweet, heartwarming, feel good story. All the feels and hugs that will make you smile. Nicely balanced easy read. Good characterizations, great visuals that really were expansive putting you right in the story. Really a good flow. Secondary characters were well thought out and helped drive the story offering a nice well rounded balance to the story line on a whole.

There was instant attraction between Mia and Dominic that was a bit typical in many stories that I see lately, but the author was able to bring enough realism to balance some of the instant sparkle of the story line.

And sparkle it did.

Mia is a girl I can relate to. Coming from a large, loud Italian American family, I definitely know how it feels growing up surrounded by family, and understanding the empty feelings when not being surrounded by them as well. Mia's characterization exemplified those feelings. Passionate, loud at times, withdrawn and shy around large strange crowds, trying to please, wanting the happy life, all rolled in to a self assured yet flawed woman. A real person. And a happy life is what she thought she had, until it all crumbled by betrayal, distraction, distance, and self doubt.

Dominic had it all, until he didn't. His thoughts of happiness also crumbled to the point of needing a new start far from what he knew his whole life.

Mia and Dominic come together when both are struggling to find their way. Both knowing what they want, yet scared to admit it and both resolving to let things take their own course, trusting in fate.

Then we have Lucia, Mia's little girl. Normally not a huge fan of children in contemporary stories but this little girl captured my heart. She was written so adorably, you couldn't help falling in love with her.

There was some definite steaminess between these two and again, the author did an amazing job of giving the visual, without the graphics. Something I personally appreciate. You definitely knew what these two were getting busy doing without it being written out word for word.

Low angst, an easy emotional ride, light, funny, filled with touches of nuances that just made me smile.

Good story, good story telling.

Bravo Jennifer on your debut!

"I'm so happy. I didn't think it was possible to feel happier than I did when I met you, but I was wrong. How can I even begin to express how much more my heart is swelling to fit all the love and happiness I feel for you, Lucia, and now our new baby? I love you. Thank you for loving me and making all my dreams come true," he said while his voice cracked from his overwhelming emotion.

"Please don't ever thank me for loving you. Loving you and being with you and now expanding our family with you makes me the happiest person on the planet. I love you with all my heart," I said.

***ARC received as part of authors blog tour hosted by Renaissance Romance - Featured review and giveaway on Fandom Fanatic | August 30.**

Renee says

This was what I needed. I got a big smile on my sappy love story enjoying face!

If you are a big chick-lit fan, like me, then this is for you. Some parts were cliché, but I loved it. The characters were very relatable for me. The fact that Mia was sort of expected to get married seemingly happy, she has a great life. Well for a while it rolls along, then she thinks she needs to spice up her life. This leads to drama, sadness, and infidelity. My heart broke for her disappointment when she got all dolled up and waited for her husband to come home. Makes me wanna smack a man right now.

As Mia decides she should move on she realizes that she needs help. Why not take her good friend up on the offer to get in touch with her cousin. Her cousin who is looking to change his career, would love to relocate to California. Why not hire a nanny? right? I was all for it, then it turns out to be Dominic, which is adorable, cute, and somewhat loveable. It is a cute read, so especially if you are in for something lite and fluffy, grab this one

Kim says

If you loved the show "Who's the Boss?" Then you will love My Mr. Manny. I received a copy of My Mr. Manny for Jennifer's Blog tour for My Mr. Manny release. Well it is a quick read and didn't take me long to read it. I do wish there was a little more of the story about Mia but with the amount of pages Jennifer got a whole story in and didn't bore you with any extra stuff. Maybe I am used to a lots of things added in a book that I thought maybe more should be added not sure. I do love that Mia gets a manny for her daughter and the relationship made me think of "Tony and Angela". Jennifer thanks for a quick read which fit romance and heartbreak into 112 pages. I really enjoyed it

Tbird London says

I was asked to be part of the blog tour and give a review for My Mr. Manny. I have dedicated myself to giving honest reviews so I feel I must tackle the things about this book that I wasn't fond of first. Although

the story plot was interesting, I just felt like the characters didn't have time to be fully developed. I was left with wanting more than what the few pages gave me. There was so much information and events in this story, I didn't feel like each event had the proper amount of time for me to become emotionally invested in the characters.

Now for the good things, as I said the plot was interesting, wife, husband, child, normal family unit. Husband works all of the time leaving the mom as a single mom. One night determine to keep the marriage together she decides to surprise him. Unfortunately it was her that was in for the shock. She finds him with another woman. Now this is what I did love about this book, instead of becoming a victim, she takes a stand and kicks him to the curb. She moves on with her life and plans a future for her and her daughter.

In comes Mr. Manny, she needs help raising her daughter alone and working full-time. Since she never limited herself to conventional ways, she hires Dominic to be Mr. Manny. One thing leads to another and emotions start to grow. Of course we can't have a love story without obstacles such as not everyone in the family agrees to this new relationship.

It came down to having to decide what was best for her and her daughter and was Dominic worth fighting for and was he willing to fight for them? As I stated, this was a good plot and I can only imagine how much more intense this would have been with more pages to fill in the gaps for us. I was pleasantly surprised to find a strong female lead character who didn't crumble when she had found out the truth about her husband. It was refreshing to see her take the control of her life back and vow to make a life for herself and her daughter. I loved how she was willing to take risks in loving again and not caring about how society viewed it.

I also loved the fact that Dominic was comfortable with himself to become the Mr. Manny, he was a strong male but not afraid to show his paternal nature. We get so many alpha male stories these days, it was nice to see the role reversal in a the home. Of course he wanted to work and bring his own money into the family, which only reinforces that the characters were strong and mature and responsible. You won't find the usual drama in a love story between young people, but you will find the emotional roller coaster that comes with finding their way in life as a new family.

Cassy Witthar says

ARC received for an honest review.

This was a nice, light, fluffy romance story. When I saw the opportunity to sign up for the blog tour and the chance to read and review this book, I jumped on it. I thought it would be something a little different from what has become my norm. The beginning did seem a little rushed. There was basically 10 years of back story in the first few chapters. I felt that I could have connected with the characters a little better. But the concept is a good one. It has a whole, "Who's The Boss?" feel to it.

Mia had married her childhood friend from back home Boston right after college and they started their family right away. After Mia had Lucia, their daughter, all her time and energy went into taking care of her. Her husband was always working long hours and never home. He never really even got to know his daughter. Mia was so engrossed in her daughter she never really noticed or if she did, she didn't care. When she and her husband divorce, she's faced with being a single mom and realizes she's going to need someone there to take care of her daughter while she works. When her cousin suggests she hire a nanny and

that she knows someone perfect for the position, she takes her up on it. Well, in Mia's case, she hires a Manny. Dominic. Sparks fly and I'm sure you can see where this is going....

I'd recommend this to all romance lovers out there. It's a nice quick read. 3.5 stars out of 5 for me.

This review can be seen at <http://www.stephaniesbookreports.com>

Dominique says

Loved it, finished it in a day! Some very cute moments, and a sweet storyline. Love that Mia took charge and didn't come off as a victim. Dominic was a great male/father figure and Lucia was adorable. :)

Catarina Szelsky † says

This book was so sweet!

Babus says

This is a sweet love story. It seemed to go by in a rush at the beginning. We went through over 10 years in the first few chapters. Then we get to know Mia at her current stage in life, figuring out how to raise her child on her own. When her cousin suggests that she hire a nanny, Mia agrees to meet this man turned nanny.

Sparks fly when Mia meets Dominic. They dance around each other for a few months while Dominic takes care of Lucia and the house and Mia works during the day. We watch their relationship grow into more.

I enjoyed this story. It seemed like it skipped around at times and was difficult to follow at other times. I liked how important family was to these people and how they tried to include other family members in most things and that the little girl was the center of their universe. Mia and Dominic are loveable characters and I would have liked to get to know Dominic a little better. Overall, this is a good romance. 3.5 out of 5!

Roses Book Blog says

Mia Balducci grew up in Boston. When she turned sixteen she moved to Los Angeles to live with her dad. She misses her big Italian family and her friends from her hometown. She forces herself to change things like her voice so she'll fit into her new high school. She's always felt out of place that is until she gets to college and becomes best friends with her roommate Susan. While Mia still feels out of place, it's at a football game that she runs into Alex who was her friend growing up.

Alex and Mia reconnect and start dating moving into a condo together as they grow closer. Much to their surprise Mia becomes pregnant and Alex quickly proposes to her a short time later. Lucia has become the light of Mia's life over the last five years. Gone is the supportive loving husband that she married. He's

never home, he can't be bothered, and never sees his child. Mia understands that being CEO he's very busy but it's almost like Mia has been a single parent for their daughter's entire life taking her to school, feeding her, and helping with her homework.

Finally one day Mia wakes up and decides that it's time for Alex to start spending time with them, but Alex can't seem to be bothered and even when Mia tries to rekindle some of their passion, Alex ignores her. Fed up with his treatment towards her and their daughter, Mia decides to go to his office to confront him only to discover a sobbing woman in his arms who he's been having an affair with. Mia isn't upset about the affair, she's upset because he's strung her along all this time without being honest or spending time with his kid.

He's quick to move on with his life, giving up all parental rights to their child, leaving Mia without a husband and Lucia without a father. Mia begins to realize that as Lucia gets older, she's going to have a hard time managing everything that will be going on in her life. Between school, ballet, and coming home every night to cook for her, Mia thinks she needs help. Her cousin Lori who is in town visiting knows exactly what Mia needs, a nanny. She has the perfect man for the job. Dominic is her husband's brother who just lost his job on Wall Street, his fiancée left him since she was only after him for money, and he's looking to start over somewhere else and as a nanny.

Lori is quick to arrange an interview between Mia and Dominic and Dominic quickly moves in and takes over. Dominic is so much more than a nanny to Mia and Lucia. He cooks, cleans, and takes care of them both, never taking time to himself. Mia thinks he's too good to be true and from the moment she first laid eyes on him, she's been in love with him. But Mia is afraid if she voices her attraction to him, he'll run away and leave them when they both desperately need him in their lives. Can Mia get over the hurt and betrayal caused by her ex and take a chance on a man who has quickly come to mean so much to her and Lucia?

This story was such a refreshing change from some of the other books that I have read. It was sweet, heartfelt, and enjoyable. I loved the relationship between Dominic and Mia, there was not a whole lot of drama to their love story other than Alex, and I loved having an easy and light read to fill my day with. This is the second book by Jennifer I have read and I look forward to reading more of her work in the future, 5 stars!

ARC provided by author in exchange for a honest review

Philomena Callan Cheekypee says

This was a fab light hearted read. I thoroughly enjoyed this storyline. It had me smiling & saying awe a few times. The characters were so loveable.

I certainly recommend this book especially if your looking for a nice easy read.
Received from author in return for an honest review.
