



Her Leading Man

Maggie Dallen

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Life's not like the movies . . . or is it?

An avid knitter and manager of a yarn store in New York City, Caitlyn finds herself at loose ends after getting dumped by her long-time, live-in boyfriend. What better way to move on then to find a man like the old-school movie stars that she dreams about? But her first attempt at online dating is a disaster. Especially when the date turns out to be the new renter of a room in her apartment.

Wall Street powerhouse Ben needs a place to crash while his condo is being renovated. Love is the last thing on his mind since he's just getting over a breakup. But he can't resist a challenge, especially one like his prim and proper new roommate. A do-gooder with a heart of gold, Caitlyn is spearheading a fight to save an old theater, while Ben is working for the developer trying to tear it down. Sparks will fly, but they may not be enough to ignite big-screen romance . . .

Her Leading Man Details

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Books and Spoons says

As a lover of old movies, Cary Grant, and knitting picking this book up at NetGalley was no brainer to me. And it turned out to be a fun read, a story filled with good friends and an intriguing romance storyline from a disastrous date to roommates to friends with benefits to... Yes, it takes a wild and windy road for Caitlyn and Ben to find their HEA.

Caitlyn's self-esteem was a bit fragile after her ex took an ax to it as they broke up. Now she is finally ready to try dating again and in walks Ben, drunk, crude and insulting. Oh, Ben...

I liked Caitlyn, she is a knitting, old movie loving person. She is loyal to her friends, she has the no business sense, but she does what she loves, she has made a life she enjoys for herself, and now all she needed was her Cary Grant.

Ben was also devastated after he found out his girlfriend and business partner were having an affair. Ben had some issues from his childhood when it came to his parent's relationship and his father's way of being a bully. Ben could be fun, caring, considerate, and sweet one moment, yet he could be complete opposite at times especially when alcohol was part of the picture. And it was a lot, I haven't noticed or paid attention to alcohol consumption in romance novels before, but here I noticed it, it stood out, as the main characters over indulge several times with consequences to their lives.

The author really did an amazing job with Ben's character development in this story. With so many scenes against him, she managed to turn the boat around so that I grew to like him and care for him, despite all his imperfections and rude behavior.

I liked the story, it was lively, light and amusing at times. It was well written and had a good rhythm to it. It had a real life vibes to it from the evenings at the couch knitting and watching movies to the nights at the bar, and fun with the friends. The cast of characters has a wide variation of personalities, and I believe this series will be filled with upbeat, festive and fun people and events. A perfect read for a weekend evening, very much of a feeling of the eighties romantic comedy movies.

~ Three Spoons with a teaspoon on the side

Cheri says

I received and ARC of this book from Net Galley in exchange for an honest review.

I want to be BFFs with this book. It had a rough start for me, but I truly think the few sharp edges I encountered will be smoothed out in final editing. Once the story got going I forgot about those hiccups and just strapped in for the ride.

The first chapter of this book had me thinking there was NO WAY the author was going to be able to make Ben likeable. Talk about a jerk! Sure he was drunk, but why would you get drunk on a first date? Especially if you knew you acted like a douche when you drank too much? Ugh! I couldn't stand him and felt so bad for Caitlyn. The way the author, Maggie Dallen, was able to turn things around says a lot for her writing talent. Now I can't wait to read her other books to see if she's such a master all the time.

The chemistry and interplay between Caitlyn and Ben, before there is even any physical contact, is like to cause a 5-alarm fire. The build up to their first kiss had the butterflies in my stomach in a flurry! There's a snafu that happens during that interlude, which took the butterflies from 60-0 in no time flat. Once again I

couldn't figure out if Ben is just a jerk or an idiot. (Spoiler: he's an idiot)

Once Ben and Cait come to their agreement I couldn't help but fall in love with them as a couple. They were fun and sweet with each other and it just melted my heart. Of course, I could also read the writing on the wall and knew the euphoria couldn't last. And the way the fallout is written had me mad at neither of them. There are a lot of books that have me rolling my eyes or yelling at a character because of an action (or inaction). I somehow sided with them both!

I could not put this book down. It was fun and sexy and funny and smart. I love Caitlyn's group of friends and their love for the old movie theater and old movies. I want there to be a story for Ben's friend Gregory because he certainly captured my attention. This book had everything a contemporary romance should have and an HEA that did not disappoint. Beside a few rough edges in the beginning and a bit of a timeline issue (that may well be my own obsession over timelines in books and not really anything that anyone else will even notice), I found this to be a perfect read.

Connie N. says

#1 in the Reel Romance series

Thanks to NetGalley for a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

This feels like a sweet old-fashioned romance, although there were definitely some hot moments. Caitlyn is a quiet woman who likes to knit and watch classic movies. As a matter of fact, she and her friends are trying to save a dying classic-movie theater. Along comes Ben, first a disastrous blind date, then a surprise roommate. He and Caitlyn have romantic chemistry, although it's more sweet than explosive. I found their moments together to be warm and loving, and I enjoyed seeing their love grow, despite Ben's resistance. There's a bit of drama that develops over the theater, and both characters need to work through their bad break-ups, but overall I enjoyed this book and will look for more in this series.

C bond says

via netgalley

this was a good read.

Pam says

Caitlyn & Ben meet on a horrible first date. Caitlyn has decided she's ready to get back out there after a bad breakup & has resorted to an online dating site. Ben's secretary has convinced him to give it a try but it's way to early for him. He's still in the anger stage of the breakup. After getting drunk, being obnoxious & dumping his drink in her lap, Caitlyn writes Ben off.

Ben can't remember the date the night before. He has a horrible hangover but thinks the date was boring. He can't remember much else about it. Imagine his surprise when he decides to rent a room in an apartment &

Caitlyn opens the door. Imagine hers. Can they get past this?

This is a good sweet romance with horrible beginnings. Both Caitlyn & Ben had bad breakups & need to learn to trust themselves & their feelings before they can move on. We are introduced to a group of friends that I assume will be making appearances in future books. The reader is introduced to their back stories & their fascination with an old theater & the classic movies they show there. A good start to the series.

Gail says

A heartwarming romance story about Caitlyn and Ben. It will make you laugh and cry. Loved the referrals to the Cary Grant movies. This story would make for an amazing Hallmark movie! I loved every minute of the story and hated to see it end.

Meaghan says

Sweet and fun, with some sparks at the beginning and grand gestures at the end, just like in the movies.

Angel Hatfield says

Caitlyn loves to knit and teach her craft at the yarn store she works at and loves her job. Her long time boyfriend dumped her and after six months and Caitlyn decides to stop holing up in her apartment and start going out with her friends again. Then Caitlyn takes advice from one of her friend and decides to give online dating a chance. She states on her online profile she is looking for someone like her all time favorite Cary Grant. Then she accepts a date and goes to the restaurant to meet him and he is already drunk and he keeps slamming the way she is dressed, her job , everything. He sits eating bread going on and on then tells her she needs to get laid and he is available. Caitlyn decides she is through with the date the he spills beer all over her lap and she leaves. Ben had been staying with his friend Gregory while his condo was being renovated. Ben and his girlfriend had broken up when he caught Olivia in bed with Alejandro one of Ben's partners at work. Ben hasn't been back to work since. Ben has no memory of the date but hadn't heard back from the woman so let it go. But Gregory and his girl Olivia are volatile so Ben is looking to sublet a room until his condo is ready. Ben finds one and goes to the apartment the room is at and Caitlyn answers the door and horrified to find Ben is suppose to sublet her room. But Caitlyn needs help with the bills so she lets Ben move in. As time goes on Ben finds he is attracted to Caitlyn but he is now a no relationship kind of guy after the breakup with Olivia.

I like this story . Didn't like Ben at all at first . Why did Ben get drunk if he knew he had a date with someone he had yet to meet? I did like Ben as time went on. I felt bad for Caitlyn when she was on the date and then to find he was to be her roommate. Caitlyn was sweet and I liked her character a lot and she really did have some good friends. Ben's friend Gregory definitely added to the story also. This was a fun read. Not a lot of drama involved especially after Caitlyn got to know Ben better . they really did make a sweet couple. I liked all the characters a lot and the ins and outs of this story as well as the plot and i recommend.

Regina says

Delightful first book in this series about a group of friends and their love for old movies - and The Ellen, a movie theater from the Golden Age that's practically a character in its own right.

I fell in love with Caitlyn pretty much from the start, siding with her against uber-jerk Ben... who turned out to be our romantic hero?!

Kudos to Maggie Dallen to pull that one off - I was really surprised when I actually fell in love with Ben, too. Eventually. :)

I especially loved Caitlyn's tight-knit group of friends, and am looking very much forward to reading their stories, too. :)

Ellen says

Caitlin manages a yarn store in NYC and Ben's a Wall Street executive. They meet on an online dating service...unfortunately their date is a disaster! Ben's drunk and extremely rude & condescending to Caitlin the entire time! They meet again when Ben ends up subletting a room for Caitlin while his condo is being renovated. Neither is looking for romance, but their chemistry is too hot to deny!

Nadine says

Caitlyn and Ben are both getting over a previous relationship. Caitlyn is nice and kind. Ben is a bit tougher. Not very nice at first (understatement). Their first date? Nope. NO WAY. But then fate puts them in each other's path again.

I liked it. Fun and sweet and spicy and it just flowed well. I really enjoyed following Caitlyn and Ben and their conflicting interests. And how it all comes together... or not. They should make a movie of this book!

Only thing: I am not that familiar with Cary Grant movies (sorry...) and sometimes I didn't really get the referrals. But that's a minor thing.

I received a complimentary copy of this book and voluntarily provided an honest review.

Raquel says

Caitlyn who has a love for old movies and knitting is trying to move on after her boyfriend of many years dumps her and her friends have finally convinced her to give online dating a try and find her very own Cary Grant. But instead of Cary Grant she gets the date from hell where she meets Ben who is drunk and lays into her about the way she dresses her job and to make matter worse tells her she needs to get laid and that he's willing to help her out with that needless to say he is a total jerk. Then by chance when Ben needs a place to stay while he gets over his own troubles like his cheating girlfriend he finds a roommate who happens to be

poor Caitlyn after some apologies on Bens part when he finally realizes who Caitlyn is because the kicker is he doesn't remember their date Caitlyn allows him to stay. Ben was not my favorite character at the beginning he was a totally jerk and he doesn't do relationship because of his past but more and more he likes Caitlyn but wants to keep there relationship as friends with benefits type of thing. But it all comes crashing down and Ben has to decide if losing what he had with Caitlyn really what he wants. I really loved this book my only complaint was that I wanted more!

I received an arc and voluntarily read and reviewed this book.

Samantha Bilodeau says

This was sweet and sexy with some fun characters. Caitlyn works at a yarn shop and is someone who enjoys life's comforts. Her idea of a fun evening is hanging out on her couch while knitting, watching movies, or talking - or all of the above. Her ex found this boring and left her feeling inadequate. She has a horrible blind date and then is stuck living with that date. Ben, the bad date, was nervous and drunk and doesn't remember his bad behavior. He is also recently single, having found his girlfriend cheating on him with one of his colleagues. This means couch-surfing and working from home for awhile. And fighting his attraction for Caitlyn, since he isn't a "relationship guy."

I really liked how they were so normal and hung out at home watching things while she knit (as someone who knots & crochets and loves movies, including Cary Grant ones, this was right up my alley!). These two had chemistry and their romance really shined. I am a sucker for genuine bonding with hot chemistry. There was good rapport and banter between Ben and Caitlyn.

Their arrangement was basically as you would expect, and there weren't really any surprises here, but it was a nice escape. The drama was low-key, portrayed in a very genuine way. Caitlyn's strength really coming out was nice to watch as was Ben's. They grew as people from start to finish.

The friends were a fun addition, too. I am most intrigued by Alice and what exactly was going on with her. She had some great insights and felt like a fantastic addition. I hope her story is next in this series!
