



Hold My Hand

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Alek Khederian thinks about his life B.E. and A.E.: Before Ethan and After Ethan. Before Ethan, Alek was just an average Armenian-American kid with a mess of curly dark hair, grades not nearly good enough for his parents, and no idea of who he was or what he wanted. After he got together with Ethan, Alek was a new man. Stylish. Confident. (And even if he wasn't quite marching in LGBTQ parades), Gay and Out and Proud.

With their six-month anniversary coming up, Alek and Ethan want to do something special to celebrate. Like, really special. Like, the most special thing two people in love can do with one another. But Alek's not sure he's ready for that. And then he learns something about Ethan that may not just change their relationship, but end it.

Alek can't bear the thought of finding out who he'd be P.E.: Post-Ethan. But he also can't forgive or forget what Ethan did. Luckily, his best friend Becky and madcap Armenain family are there to help him figure out whether it's time to just let Ethan go, or reach out and hold his hand.

Hold My Hand is a funny, smart, relatable take on the joy and challenges of teenage love, the boundaries of forgiveness, and what it really means to be honest.

Hold My Hand Details

Date : Expected publication: May 21st 2019 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux

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From Reader Review Hold My Hand for online ebook

Giovanna Brondo says

I'm incredibly excited for this! Why until 2017??? :(and why does one of the cheat??? Oh god I'm excited

Is says

Yeah.....

This was not good.

Like why? Who asked for this?

Listen, I absolutely loved One Man Guy. Five stars and all.

WHY, oh why, would you follow it up with this? By now, we all know that Alek and Ethan are the characters of this story, but who asked for this?

I might do a full, in-depth, review but it'll get super spoiler-y but what kind of BS sequel is this? I read the acknowledgement page where the inspiration came from someone telling Barakiva I want Alek and Ethan to break up and get back together and all you could think of what oh, yeah, the ONLY way for them to break up (and be entertaining, I gues?????) is to have cheating be the cause??

(view spoiler)

Bro, this book messed up One Man Guy for me, and my entire day. I was so hyped when I got the E-ARC of this but now I just want to burn it.

haley says

I went through an emotional rollercoaster in the span of a few minutes after finding out about this.

Listen, I just read and enjoyed One Man Guy. And I love Alek as a character so for a moment I was so hyped to see a sequel.

But then I found out the plot centers (spoiler!!!) around Ethan cheating on Alek. Bro what the actual fuck?! That literally makes no sense with Ethan's character???? What happened to being a "one man guy", which is, ya know, the literal title of the first book?!?! Like Ethan himself was cheated on, he knew how painful it was and it was important to him to stay loyal and monogamous to his partner!!!! So what the actual genuine fuck is this bullshit?

Okay so the idea of them breaking up and them coming back together, is uncomfortable but I can handle it. But infidelity, I CANNOT abide. Fuck that noise.

Hard pass. Sorry, man.

Mike Urbina says

One man guy is very likely going to be the best thing I'll read this year.

I WILL read absolutely everything written by Michael Barakiva, EXCEPT for anything centered on the main characters from One man guy. That book is a fragile, perfect little world. It needs nothing else.

Angela Nuñez says

Solo espero que no sea sobre Ethan y Alek, porque si lo es, llorare.

Teresa says

3.5 Stars

When I read this book I was unaware that there was a novel before this that introduces you to Ethan and Alek. That being said I was totally comfortable diving into this book without any backstory, I feel like Barakiva did a good enough job that I didn't miss much from "One Man Guy" (but I would also like to say that I would love to read that book just because I love Alek and Ethan so much).

This book starts with what seems to be a picture perfect relationship between two boys that couldn't be more different (thus making them perfect for each other). Not all is as it seems in paradise when; Ethan lets an ex come between him and Alek and pretty soon their relationship is over due to Alek not being able to trust Ethan. But what if Ethan were to win back Alek's trust? Would they be able to find their happily ever after again?

I loved this book because I feel like cheating is something that happens to most people...and it is really finding that love to forgive a person and try to start again (hell, cheating also has affected Beyonce and Jay-Z). Barakiva has written a realistic view of a relationship (IMO) and I loved every minute of it. Thanks to MacMillan for the ARC!

Racheal says

I loved *One Man Guy* SO MUCH, but the cheating plot for this is an absolute no-go for me.

Michael Barakiva says

I want to thank everyone who wrote, tweeted, pinged, PMed or reached out to me in any other way to tell me about what One Man Guy meant to them. Although Hold My Hand is a stand-alone sequel, and it is meant to be enjoyed entirely on its own, it was the response of the readers of OMG that inspired me to write another book.

I have spent most of my life directing plays, and as much as I love that (and I do love it), getting to interact with the readers of OMG directly has helped me understand what kind of art I'd like to be making in my life, and the impact I hope it has.

HMH is a very personal book for me, as was OMG. It dives into the the heart of so many of the things that are important to me as someone who is queer, someone who is Armenian, and most of all, someone who loves food and making it and eating it.

And for the readers of OMG who are nervous about HMH, I hope you'll trust me enough to take the leap.
