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"Delightful . . . a romantic fable that warms the heart."  
—Nicholas Sparks

# Handyman



"Supremely entertaining . . .  
full of unexpected delightful twists."  
—*The Denver Post*

Linda Nichols

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# **Handyman**

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## **Handyman** Linda Nichols

Maggie Ivey is about to make the best mistake of her life.

A struggling twenty-six-year-old single mom, Maggie Ivey is just trying to keep it all together. She's got a lecherous boss, a dead-end job, and a worried mother who just wants her to move back home to Georgia. Maggie's prospects look dim, until a friend signs her up for the famous Dr. Jason Golding's 21-Day Overhaul. The first session seems to go perfectly. Dr. Golding is warm, sensitive, and a terrific listener. There's only one problem: The handsome man in Dr. Golding's chair isn't Dr. Golding. In fact, he's not even a therapist; he's Jake Cooper, a contractor hired to remodel the office. But all Maggie knows is that talking to him helps her feel better. And Jake doesn't quite know how to let Maggie in on the secret. Will he eventually confess to his ruse? Will she discover the truth on her own? And the most important question of all: Can a **Handyman** fix a broken heart?

## **Handyman**

### **Handyman Details**

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## **From Reader Review Handyman for online ebook**

### **Jo says**

Nice entertaining read--what some would call a beach novel. I read it while sitting with my husband in the hospital. Typical woman with child meets man, falls in love, misunderstanding, etc., etc. etc.

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### **Sheri S. says**

Maggie walks into her first appointment with famous psychiatric guru Dr. Jason Golding crying like she's never cried before and relaying her whole woeful life story. What she doesn't know is that she's actually speaking to the carpenter, Jake Cooper, hired to renovate the doctor's office. As Maggie feels much better and can't believe how understanding and sympathetic her "doctor" is and Jake feels compelled to keep helping her, their charade goes on for 3 weeks. Jake is tormented by not being able to tell Maggie the truth (and also falling in love with her) and Maggie feels torn when she feels more than friendship with her doctor. Of course, it all comes down to an ultimate showdown, but with a happy happy ending!

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### **Laurie Vineyard says**

I had to skip a lot to finish it. It just was unrealistic, drawn out and predictable to me. I enjoy this author though.

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### **Larisha says**

Linda Nichol's first novel. A light read and it would be a great comedy movie.

The main character many could identify with the scene - a young mother having a melt down.

I liked the innocence of the main characters who found themselves in situations they could never have imagined themselves in. I admired how the writer conveyed their love and desire for each other, and remained wholesome

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### **Carla says**

I've read this one more than once, because I enjoyed it so much! It is a clean romantic comedy with witty dialogue.

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### **Elaine says**

This story is told from Maggie's point of view and also from Jake's. He is caught off guard by a new female patient in the office of the psychologist where he and his partner were writing up a construction estimate. Maggie, the patient, mistakenly believes he's Dr. Golding and pours out her heart to him. At first he tries to tell her that he's not the doctor but each time he goes to open his mouth, she either starts another round of tears or continues talking. Meanwhile, Dr. Golding had just survived a heart attack and is now a hospital patient.

Maggie's life isn't going so well. She's no longer with the father of her young son. Her son suffers with ear infections and she's told he will need surgery to put tubes in his ears and also a tonsillectomy. She is barely eking by financially and doesn't know how she will pay the bills. Her job had promised insurance but they've yet to come through for her. Instead she receives threats that she is about to lose her job if she takes more than a few days off at a time. Her mother would give her the needed money for Tim's surgery but there would be strings attached.

Redundancy throughout with Jake trying to "work out" the when and the way he is going to approach Maggie with the truth of who he is and that he's not really Dr. Golding. In the meantime, they start dating and her friend and family are concerned over her seeing this "doctor." His family and work partner are also wondering what he's up to. They're both beginning to fall for each other. Yada yada yada.... Yawn.

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### **Kristie says**

I wanted this book to be so much better. I found myself skimming and skipping A LOT of it. I thought both the main characters were flat and only semi interesting. I got annoyed with Jake for lying to Maggie through the whole book. I just wanted to shake him and say 'what's wrong with you? Tell her the truth!'. It got annoying how Jake kept thinking about telling her but then didn't. What did he really expect that she would find out and then come back to him? Oh wait, that's what happened. Boring, predictable and not very interesting.

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### **Grace says**

I'm pretty sure I wouldn't have lasted through this book if it weren't in Reader's Digest form. It was already boring enough as it was in the condensed version.

As for the book itself, it's a standard romance book. There is nothing special about it as far as I can tell.

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### **Rae says**

A few unnecessary words.....sadly

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### **Jill Jackson says**

A romance novel that actually kept me interested because the characters are quite likable. The plot is predictable, but no one would want a romance novel to end badly, would they? I also enjoyed it because I read it while visiting northern California, and the entire story takes place in the Bay Area and north on Highway 101. There is nothing like traveling through graffiti-scarred Oakland on a Greyhound Bus to give a person empathy for the struggling single mom portrayed in this story.

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### **Stacy says**

Well that was a weird story. And super unrealistic. It was weird how accepting everyone in Jake's life was of him pretending to be a psychologist and it was weird that Maggie didn't think his very personal treatment of her was weird.

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### **Kristen says**

If you love inspirational romances, you'll enjoy Handyman by Linda Nichols. Maggie Ivey is a single mother and needs some spiritual help. When she attends Dr. Golding's 21-Day Overhaul, her life is transformed and righted, as she stands up for herself. Things look up to her, when she's with "Jake", who accidentally poses as him. Little did they know, they fall in love with each other, as other people gang up on her and reveal his scam. When she finds out, she leaves him. With a little bit of forgiveness, they're reunited. A light-headed romance in faith and in love.

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### **Melody says**

This book was a little slow moving and unrealistic, but it was sweet and cute.

It is also old. I didn't realize it was written in 2000 until I looked up the copyright year because of all the old-fashioned things like busy telephones and taking messages.

Content: no sex. Some profanity.

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### **Bark says**

This book sounded like a whole heck of a lot of fun. Imagine all of the amusing scenarios possible when a handyman (architect actually) poses as a crackpot psychologist to a woman in desperate need of one. Sadly, what followed was hardly laugh out loud funny for this reader though.

The heroine Maggie Ivey is a total wimp (and, of course, is a paragon of all that is loving and good) whose life is in shambles. With a young ill son and no health insurance she should elicit reader sympathy. Unfortunately, her total dependence on the hero (who she naively believes is "her doctor") to fix everything

bad in her life quickly strained my patience. After one speech the fine, strong hero scares off her lecherous boss who immediately gives her a huge raise, benefits etc. and so on. We should all be so lucky . . .

Besides a lame heroine, the plot hinges on a huge and totally unbelievable big misunderstanding that could've been cleared up ten minutes into the book. The hero is a great guy, don't get me wrong (he's the only good thing about the book) but his silly excuses to withhold the truth of his identity from Maggie were an obvious and annoying plot tactic created by the author to drag out her story. And, boy, did it drag. I won't even get started on the stereotypical female secondary characters who were all self centered, workaholic, super bitches taken straight from the archives of a bad *Melrose Place* episode.

Another thing that really bugged me throughout the reading of this novel was the fact that the heroine was called "Maggie Ivey" whenever the hero thought of her - even after they got close. Here's an example of the hero thinking about Maggie: "oh, if only I could tell Maggie Ivey the truth" -- "if only Maggie Ivey didn't think I was her psychologist" -- "If only Maggie Ivey weren't such a dunce" - whoops that last one was mine. This may sound like a minor nit-pick but it quickly becomes major when one is listening to it on an audiobook. Finally, the reading of this audiobook nearly put me into a coma because the actress exhibited zero emotion and all of her characters sounded eerily similar.

This great hero was worthy of a much better heroine. For his sake and sanity, I only hope that Maggie perishes (probably while helping a kitten cross the street) so that he can find one. I'll be the first in line to buy that sequel!

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### **MammaMia says**

Läste den på svenska. När katten är borta.

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