



Mr. (Not Quite) Perfect

Jessica Hart

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What do women really want?

Journalist Allegra Fielding has a problem. She's pitched a story to her boss--how to transform a not-so-perfect man into Prince Charming--and now she has to deliver! But where is she going to find a man willing to take part in a makeover? Time to blackmail her roommate, Max....

But Allegra's cunning plan backfires spectacularly when Max refuses to be "perfected"! He's a guy who knows what he likes, and he's going to enjoy proving to Allegra that there's nothing hotter than a man who's a little rough around the edges....

Mr. (Not Quite) Perfect Details

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From Reader Review Mr. (Not Quite) Perfect for online ebook

Andyg. says

The perfect boyfriend, it turns out, can fix our cars and dance without looking like a total dork. He looks good and he'll get rid of that spider in the shower. He'll sit through a romcom without complaining and be strong enough to literally sweep us off our feet when required.-She leant beseechingly towards him and Max found himself snared in the big eyes. Funny how he had never noticed before how beautiful they were, or how green, the lovely dark mossy green of a secret wood...Secret wood? Max gave himself a mental slap. God, he'd be spouting poetry next!-One moment he was pretending to glower at Allegra, the next his arms were full of her. Beaming, she launched herself at him, pushing him back down onto the sofa cushions as she hugged him. 'Oh, I love you, Max! Thank you, thank you, thank you!' she babbled, blizzarding kisses over his face. 'You won't regret it, I promise you. I'm going to change your life, and it's going to be perfect!'-Why was there never a black hole around when you needed to jump into one?-Her mouth dried and all at once she was remembering how she had hugged him in her excitement the night before. She hadn't thought about it. He was Max, and he'd just agreed to take part in something Allegra knew he was going to hate. Hugging him was the obvious thing to do. But when her arms were around his neck and her lips pressed to his cheek, she had suddenly become aware of how solid he was, how male. How familiar and yet how abruptly strange. The prickle of stubble on his jaw had pressed into her cheek and she'd breathed in the clean masculine smell of him and something had twisted hard and hot in her belly. Something that had felt alarmingly like lust. Which of course it couldn't have been because, hey, this was Max.-Why did just saying his name suddenly make her feel warm?-To Max's horror, his body had taken on a mind of its own. Without him even being aware of what he was doing, his arms had clamped round her and for a moment he had held her against him and fought the crazy urge to slide his hands under that skimpy top and roll her beneath him.-'Relax!' she said, leaning across the table to slap his hand away from his throat, and the scent of her perfume momentarily clouded Max's brain.-Darcy was obviously enjoying herself. She threw her head back and laughed her glorious laugh. She propped her chin on her hands and leant forwards, as if the famous cleavage needed attention drawn to it. She flirted with those impossibly long lashes and ran her fingers up and down Max's arm. Max, unsurprisingly, wasn't complaining.-'It's unmistakably you, but a drawing can't really capture your charm,'-'I can't believe Max here hasn't been snapped up already, can you?'

'It's beyond comprehension,' Allegra agreed, but then made the mistake of glancing at Max. A smile hovered around his mouth and, for no reason she could name, her mouth dried..-He was looking for her. The realisation made her heart give another odd little jump and she was smiling foolishly when his gaze crossed hers, only to stop and swing back and meet her gaze. Their eyes locked with what Allegra could have sworn was an audible click and for a moment it was as if a question trembled in the air between them.-Allegra's mouth was dry, but she took a deep breath and tried to remember the instructions. She kept her eyes fixed on a spot behind Max's shoulder, which made it easier not to think about how warm and firm his fingers were, or the way his hand at her waist seemed to be sizzling through her top. Out of the corner of her eye, she could still see the edge of his jaw, rigid with concentration. It was very distracting and she kept forgetting where her feet were supposed to go.-Max was just the right height. Allegra fitted comfortably against him, her eyes level with his jaw, and if she turned her head, she could rest her face into his throat.-But standing so close to him was making her feel a bit light-headed, and she was excruciatingly conscious of her fingertips grazing his forearms with their fine, flat hairs. The air had shortened, making her heart pound ridiculously. She wanted to say something light, something casual to break the atmosphere, but her mind was a blank and she didn't dare meet Max's eyes in case...

In case what?

In case he kissed her. In case she kissed him.

Allegra swallowed hard. This was silly. She'd just got over that mad period when she'd been so inexplicably

conscious of him. The last few days had been fine, cooking, talking easily, sniping at each other, laughing with each other. They'd dutifully practised the basic waltz step and even seemed to be getting the hang of it. It had been just like the old days.

And now he'd put on a new shirt and that awful thump was back in her belly. Allegra didn't like it one little bit. Clearing her throat, she patted the second sleeve into place and stepped back. 'There, that's better,' she said.-Being so aware of him the whole time made her uncomfortable. It was crazy. It was inappropriate. It didn't make sense.-She was too aware of Max sitting beside her. He was sensibly strapped in too, and he wasn't touching her. He wasn't even close, but that didn't stop her whole side tingling as if the seat belt had vanished and she had slid across the seat to land against him.-When she had opened the bathroom door and smiled at him, it had been like a punch to his heart. 'Do I look sufficiently sensible?' she had asked while he was still struggling for breath, while he was trying to wrench his eyes off the way her dress clung enticingly to her slender body. True, her arms and shoulders were covered but that sheer black stuff was somehow even more tantalising than bare skin would have been. It seemed to beckon him forward to peer closer, hinting at the creamy skin half hidden beneath the gauzy film of black. Between the sheer arms and shoulders and the tight-fitting dress, Max felt as if there were great neon arrows angled at her throat, at her breasts, at the curve of her hips: Look here! Look here! The dress stopped above her knees—Look here!—revealing those killer legs of hers—And here!—ending in absurd shoes that were studded with mock jewels. Her earrings swung and glittered in the light and her hair, twisted up and back more neatly than usual, gleamed. Once the oxygen had rushed back to his head, Max had been able to think of lots of words to describe Allegra right then: sexy, erotic, dazzling, gorgeous... Had he already mentioned sexy? But sensible? Suitable? Max didn't think so. Now she was adjusting his tie and standing so close her perfume was coiling into his mind, and lust fisted in his belly. For a wild moment the need to touch her was so strong all Max could think about was grabbing her, pushing her up against a wall and putting his hands on her, touching her, feeling her, taking her.-I don't mind where I am, as long as I'm with Max-He couldn't resist any longer. He'd forgotten why he needed to, forgotten everything but the need to seal the gap between them. He drew her head towards him—or perhaps she leant closer; Max never knew—and angled his lips against hers, and the taste and the touch of her blew his senses apart so that he could almost have sworn that the restaurant swung wildly around them. She was warm and responsive, pliant against him, and their mouths fitted together as if they were meant for each other. The astonishing rightness of it rose in his chest and surged through him like a tide, blocking out doubts, blocking out reason, blocking out everything that wasn't Allegra: the scent of her, the feel of her, the sweetness of her. Afterwards, Max calculated that the kiss couldn't have lasted more than a few seconds, but at the time it seemed to stretch to infinity and beyond. He never knew where he found the strength to pull away, but somehow he had drawn back and was staring into her eyes once more. The lovely green was dark and dazed, and her expression was as stunned as his must have been.-Desperately, Max tried to pull himself together. His blood was pounding, which was crazy. It had just been a kiss, hardly more than a peck on the lips. There was no reason for his heart to be throbbing still like that, for his lungs to have forgotten how to function.-This time there was none of the piercing sweetness she had felt in the restaurant. Instead his kiss was hot and fierce, and Allegra felt need explode inside her, vaporising the last lingering remnants of rational thought. Her mind went dark and she kissed him back, wild with hunger, wanting his hands on her harder, hotter, harder.-'Friendship isn't enough on its own, nor is passion. You need both. I told Emma that I'd like to be friends, but I knew that I'd never be happy unless I could be with you.'-Tears were trembling on the end of her lashes and Max tightened his grasp on her fingers, desperate to tell her how he felt before she cried. 'I missed you as more than a friend, though. I wanted to be able to touch you and feel you...I haven't been able to stop thinking about that night. It's never been like that for me before,' he said honestly. 'It was as if everything else had been a practice and suddenly with you it was the real thing. Like I'd never understood before that was how it was supposed to be. I can't explain it. With you, it just felt right...' He trailed off, seeing the tears spilling down her cheeks. 'Don't cry, Legs, please. I just wanted to tell you how I felt.'

‘I’m crying because I’m happy,’ she said, trying in vain to blink back the tears. ‘Oh, Max, that was how it was for me too.’

The tight band around Max’s chest unlocked and he released her hands to take her face between his palms.

‘Allegra,’ he said unevenly, ‘I know I’m stuffy and I can’t dance and I’ve got no dress sense but I love you. That’s why I came back. I had to tell you.’

Incredibly, she was smiling still. ‘I love you too,’ she said, sliding her arms around his waist. ‘I’ve missed you so much.’

A smile dawned in Max’s eyes as his heart swelled. Tenderly, he grazed her jaw with his thumbs. ‘You love me?’ he repeated, dazed at the wonder of it.

‘I do,’ she said and her voice broke. ‘Oh, Max, I do.’ And she clung to him as he kissed her at last, the way he had dreamt of kissing her for so many long and lonely nights, so many bleak days.

She kissed him back, a long, sweet kiss edged with the same giddy relief at having been pulled back from an abyss at the last moment. They ran their hands hungrily over each other, a remembered inventory of pleasure. Heedless of the drizzle that was rapidly turning to rain, they forgot the ball, forgot the cold, forgot everything but the dazzling joy of being able to touch each other again, feel each other again. -‘The duke’s just a fantasy, but you’re real.’ She kissed him softly. ‘Maybe you can’t dance, and no, you’re not the sharpest dresser, but you’re perfect for me and I love you just as you are.’ -The only thing I’ll regret is not telling you I loved you earlier-

Mariel says

Ni sé qué decir. En un momento super dramático, donde la protagonista se entera quién es su padre, me empecé a reír de forma histérica porque justo ahí, justo ese momento, completó todo el cliché en una novela romántica. Hermano de la mejor amiga sin departamento que se va a vivir con ella. Sexy, aclaremos. Relaciones amorosas malas. Una madre que no la comprende. Un padre que la abandona. Una protagonista que no cree que sea perfecta para el hombre que quiere. Un protagonista que de un momento a otro ve lo hermosa que ella es. Ella lo quiere ayudar a recuperar a su ex. Él la quiere ayudar a conseguir el trabajo de su vida. Tienen relaciones y se dan cuenta que se aman. Él se tiene que ir. Ella no le dice que lo quiere. Y él vuelve porque "la ama". Beso. Fin

Me sentí re Disney con bajo presupuesto.

Recuérdeme pedir asesoramiento cuando quiera una historia romántica. Esto de buscarlas yo no es lo mío..

Karen says

I had to deduct a star because the daddy-discovery subplot felt tacked on, but I enjoyed the writing and this couple.

Ali Williams says

I love this idea of a not-so-perfect hero. Of course we know, even if it does take Allegra forever to realise it, that Max is utterly perfect for her. The concept of creating the perfect man though, does raise some interesting issues.

In some ways this works as an inverted My Fair Lady, with Allegra as a zany Professor Higgins, just as densely attempting to reinvent someone who is perfect just as they are. We forget sometimes that there is pressure on men to be the idealised version of manhood that's touted in magazines and in the media, just as there is for women.

We're told that the perfect man is sensitive, can read our minds, cook and dance. The perfect man would forgo watching football in order to curl up on the sofa with us and Patrick Swayze in Dirty Dancing.

Sometimes, we're so caught up in what seems perfect or ideal, that we don't see what is in front of us...

Full review here: <http://exploitsofachicklitaficionado....>

Caz says

Yes. I read a contemporary. I'm just as shocked as you are! :P

Actually, this is where the "challenge" part of a reading challenge comes into play, because it made me pick up a book in a genre I don't read much any more. I admit, I have probably welched on it to some extent though, because the book I picked up was a) something a couple of my AAR colleagues rated very highly, so I was pretty sure I'd like it, and b) a category romance, which meant it was something I could whip through in a couple of hours. That wasn't because I didn't want to read something longer – I did actually have another book in mind – but I was running out of time and didn't want to miss the April deadline.

Mr (not quite) Perfect is a charming and sexy friends-to-lovers story which, while it may be eminently predictable, is elevated into something a bit special by the quality of the writing and characterisation. I know that Mills and Boon/Harlequin books take a lot of flack sometimes for being too simplistic and/or too formulaic, but they have a good number of writers in their stable who are able to freshen up those formulas by means of intelligent and inventive writing; and I have a huge admiration for those among them who are able to do that while also putting out 4-6 books a year.

Allegra Fielding is a junior feature writer for a fashion magazine called *Glitz* and is longing for the opportunity to prove herself to her fearsome editor and earn herself a promotion – and at the beginning of the book, she thinks she has come up with the way to do just that. Given that many women bemoan the fact that the men in their lives are lacking in some way (they don't dress well, don't cook, aren't romantic enough...) Allegra hits on the idea of turning a "Mr Average" into a "Mr Perfect" and writing an article about it. In order to do that, of course, she has to find herself a willing guinea pig – who takes the form of Max, her best friend's brother.

Allegra and Max have known each other for years; she thinks of him as her friend's straight-laced, boring brother, and he sees her as his sister's ditsy, frivolous friend. Max has recently split up with his fiancée and has temporarily moved into the house Allegra shares with his sister while she is away in Paris. Allegra tells Max this is her big chance, her breakthrough article – and mentions that it will involve him going out with a famous underwear model, which is certainly an added inducement, but Max can also see how important this is to Allegra and he agrees to help her.

Of course, this throws them more into each other's company, which they both believe accounts for the fact that they are beginning to look at one another differently and to feel a pull between them of something other than friendship.

For a category romance, the characterisations are surprisingly deep. Both Max and Allegra have perceptions about each other which are challenged as things progress, and Allegra has a very interesting relationship with her mother, who is a kind of female Jeremy Paxman (a British journalist well known for ripping politicians to shreds on the TV every night!). Max is a lovely guy – ordinary, perhaps, but not boring, and one who sounds and thinks like a bloke (something that doesn't always occur in romance novels!), but isn't afraid to put himself out there when push comes to shove.

The friendship between Max and Allegra is extremely well written, the dialogue feels very naturalistic and much of it is very funny. The sexual tension between them builds beautifully, and when they finally do give into their urges and hit the sheets, the language is far from explicit but the scene is hot enough to blister paint.

One of the best things about the book is that, by the end of it, both Max and Allegra have grown a bit and come to realise that sometimes the thing you want (or think you want) isn't necessarily the thing you need. Max learns that perhaps making an effort occasionally isn't a bad thing while Allegra comes to see that 'ordinary' doesn't have to mean 'boring' or 'unexciting'. **Mr (not quite) Perfect** is a superb read from start to finish, and is certainly worth a few hours of any romance fan's time.

Cheryl M-M says

Have you ever wondered what it would be like if you could change all the imperfections on your not quite so perfect man?

Allegra decides to take that challenge for an article she is writing. Her unfortunate victim is plain old fuddy duddy Max, her best friend's brother.

Allegra hasn't really thought her plan through properly and when Max starts looking rather yummy she gets second thoughts, especially when other women start looking at him as if he is a chocolate éclair on two legs. Max is being a good sport about all the prodding, poking and people using him as a walking billboard advertisement. It does come with some fringe benefits like lingerie models for example. What kind of hot blooded male would say no to that? He doesn't of course and yet at the same time finds himself wondering and thinking about Allegra all of the time.

Events unfold, tempers fray and suddenly nothing is as it was before.

What I really enjoyed about this story was the simplicity. It is a story that could happen to anyone in real life. Best friends become closer and suddenly you wonder why you never noticed the person you have been looking for has been right next to you the whole time.

A really enjoyable read.

I received a copy of this book courtesy of Harlequin UK and Mills & Boon.

Angela says

Allegra adalah seorang jurnalis yang mendapatkan kesempatan menulis sebuah kolom mengenai cara-cara mengubah seorang pria yang tidak sempurna menjadi sempurna. Sayangnya dia tidak menemukan korban dan tiba-tiba tercetus ide untuk menggunakan Max sebagai objek penulisannya.

Awalnya Max menolak, tapi Allegra mengancam pria satu ini serta memberikan rayuan "Siapa tahu mantanmu tertarik lagi padamu." Dan dimulailah aksi mengubah Max yang berpakaian ala kadarnya menjadi Max yang sempurna.

Seiring perubahan Max, Allegra merasa tak nyaman karena adanya perasaan tertarik yang dulu sempat ada, kini muncul kembali. Dan mereka tak bisa menyingkirkan perasaan itu. Rencana Allegra mengubah Max malah membuatnya ingin Max kembali seperti dulu.

Khas Harlequin, tipis, pendek, to the point. Tapi aku suka sama karya Jessica Hart satu ini. Dibatik tarik ulur ceritanya. Sampai gregetan banget sama Allegra pas awal-awal si Max kencan dan wanita satu ini mulai berasa cemburu. Tapi dia kayak menolak ketertarikan itu. Max-nya juga sih, kenapa gak agresif ke Allegra. Jelas-jelas udah ada sinyalnya. Ck!

Terus di bagian menuju ending dimana aku berharap berakhir bahagia, eh si Max pakai acara dodol pergi meninggalkan Allegra. Terus dua-duanya juga gak mau saling jujur. Ughhhh...

But overall, ceritanya ringan dan menyenangkan sih. Mayan seru naik turun emosinya. Terus, udah lama juga gak baca Harlequin jadi berasa cepet banget bacanya. Hahahahaha...

Desere says

So many times I have seen friends of mine in relationships where one or both wishes they could change something about the other. It ranges from as small as "I wish he would learn to remember to pick up the towels", or as big as "I wish she could learn to open up to me".

At the end of the day it comes down to time and patience. We need to focus on the good in the person and learn to overlook the imperfections. Yes in some cases the smaller imperfections are easier to push out of the way, but there are the bigger issues that sometimes simply cannot be overlooked and it can mean the end of a relationship.

There is however one thing that always remains and that is that it is never easy to change someone from what they are to what you want them to be. A perfect image in your head will never be what you see on the outside, it is simply a dream.

In the new read from Jessica Hart this is what lies at the heart of this really fabulous read. We meet Allegra, and her strange new assignment of taking the non perfect man and turning him into the perfect to die for hero. The hero in this read Max is not so much into the idea but a little persuasion from Allegra and the game is on.

However along the way the " I will make you so hot no woman will be able to resist you " mission changes to a " I want you for myself " mission. But can Max see Allegra for more than just a messy and always doing everything backwards woman, or will he simply keep his focus on his new image and use it to his advantage in a relationship with another woman?

I loved this book SO, SO much ! It was scorching hot from the start, and so addictive that by page three I was already not able to put it down. The author did an outstanding job at showing that the image of perfection we have in our minds can simply never be achieved , it is fragment of imagination and needs to remain simply that. Because no one is perfect and when you cannot accept a person for who they are that person will never be able to accept you for who you are.

Everyone is different for a reason, if we were all perfect life would be dull and uninteresting. It would simply be the same thing over and over everyday and thus no problems would result in us never learning our true strength.

The character of Max did come off as slightly goofy or geeky in the start but in my opinion those are the type of men that are true hero material. They might not look perfect for you on the outside but deep down they are so much more hero worthy than the perfect looking drop dead gorgeous men of the world, who's image is more important then their deepest emotions.

The character of Allegra was all kind of crazy fun, I laughed so much at most of the things she does and says that I had tears streaming down my cheeks. I adored that the author let her discover the true woman she is through the eyes of imperfection.

I am taking away a message of before you want to change someone simply to fit in with your idea of perfection, take the time to find out why the person is different, there is always a reason that needs to be made clear. I highly recommend this very stunning read for all fans of romance!

5/5 star review

" Imperfection let's dreams come true"

Leona says

ok. average

Amanda says

So is this. It's the course, not me.

Whe Garcia says

I like it because its believable. Though making Max dress in buttoned up shirts seemed like a stretch with him having a sister, that's friends with Allegra for the longest time. I myself will not let my brothers dress themselves like a dork if I could help it.

Gail says

This is one of those books where one party starts off to remake the other party and winds up making themselves over. I didn't much care for the heroine, who was determined to makeover her roommate's engineer brother, in the beginning. The brother --the hero-- is one of those logical types who got engaged out of practicality and is surprised when she breaks up wanting more. The heroine wants to remake him in order to write a magazine article in order to impress her journalist mother, who has apparently never expressed pride in her daughter. There are various dating adventures and I got to liking the story more as I got into it and got to know the characters better. But the beginning was slow and a little off-putting for me, which is a shame, because it's a good read. Stick it out. It gets better.

Megan Readinginthesunshine says

Oh how I love Modern Tempted books – they're always so exciting and I'm always surprised by them in such a great way. The BEST thing about them is that you never know what to expect and so it is always a fun ride!

Allegra Fielding is a journalist who has just pitched a story to her boss – How to turn a not-so-perfect man into Prince Charming! It's a fantastic idea...but then she has to deliver on it! With no idea on where to locate and convince a man into a huge makeover, Allegra decides to use Max as her model man. But what happens when she tries to turn him into Mr Perfect? And with Max convinced there's nothing hotter than a man who is a little rough around the edges, this is going to be an adventure neither will forget...

I really enjoyed this book! I especially liked how at first Allegra sees Max just as the answer to her problem of delivering on her article, and how Max didn't really notice Allegra in the beginning either, as it gave me something to root for. As a result I thoroughly enjoyed their scenes together and seeing how they progressed together throughout the novel.

I really LOVED Max! I think one of the things I liked most about him is that he's a normal guy, he's your hero who walks the streets and lives a normal life, but at the same time there's something extra special about him. I loved Max's personality, he was so lifelike and he jumped from the pages. You just can't help falling in love with him!

I also liked the idea that this was a realistic story that could happen to anyone in real life, it made it extra exciting and will hopefully give faith and hope to other ladies out there that anything can happen and you can fall in love whenever you least expect it! This book left me with such a warm feeling – so buy it, read it and enjoy falling in love with this fantastic story!

Lynn Spencer says

I think I just found a contender for 2014's Best Category Romance. **Mr. (Not Quite) Perfect** mixes lighthearted romantic comedy and emotional angst almost perfectly to create a story that held my attention from beginning to end. Not many books will manage to both make me laugh out loud and get teary, but this

one manages it.

Living in the shadow of her renowned journalist mother doesn't come easy for Allegra Fielding. She struggles to win her mother's approval but heavyhitting political writing just isn't her. Instead Allegra is trying to find a footing at Glitz, a fashion magazine. She's convinced that her latest article idea just might help her climb the ladder. Allegra will transform a not-so-perfect everyday guy into Prince Charming and take readers along for the ride.

Allegra gets the go-ahead to write her article, but finding a volunteer to take part in the various stunts Allegra cooks up proves more difficult. Since Allegra is helping out her roommate Max with a business dinner, she decides to rope him into being her guinea pig for the article as payback. Not surprisingly, as the two work together on the sometimes ridiculous assignments required for the piece, the chemistry between them becomes impossible to ignore.

If you love friends-to-lovers stories, this one is particularly sweet. The plot is pretty predictable for anyone who has ever watched a good romantic comedy. However, what takes this book from okay to great is the writing.

This is a partial review. You can find the complete text at All About Romance:
<http://likesbooks.com/cgi-bin/bookRev...>

Saly says

This one was pretty dull with a lack-lustre romance. The whole friends to lovers thing didn't really work. h allowed her mom way too much influence on her life & choices.
