



The Man Plan

Tracy Anne Warren

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From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Last Man on Earth* comes a delicious new novel about a young woman's dreams of finding grand romance and success in the big city—and her schemes to make both come true...

What's a girl to do when the man she's loved her entire life thinks of her as a little sister? Worse, her own big sister was the one who broke his heart years earlier. For Ivy Grayson, the chance to get him to see her in a different light comes when she receives an unexpected invitation to move into his luxury New York apartment building. Manhattan also just happens to be the perfect place to pursue her wish to become a successful artist. But how many dreams can one woman expect to come true?

Billionaire financier James Jordon has everything a man could want—except love. When Ivy's family asks him to keep an eye on their “little girl” in the big city, he agrees. But the innocent girl he knew is now a dynamic woman who knows what she wants, and how to get it. He may have promised himself to keep things platonic, but ignoring the game of love isn't an option. Especially when Ivy is so eager to play.

The Man Plan Details

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From Reader Review The Man Plan for online ebook

Debbie Lester says

Tracy Anne Warren brings readers the second book in the Graysons series, The Man Plan. This is a contemporary romance set in the world of business. The hero is a successful businessman, while the heroine is an up and coming artist. It's a case of opposites attracting, but they have a lot to overcome, including a substantial age difference and the fact that Ivy's sister left James at the altar in the previous book. Warren is able to pull it all together to provide readers with an adventurous love story that will have them on pins and needles to see if the seduction works.

What I liked:

After reviewing the first book in this series, The Last Man on Earth, I was hoping that James would get his own story. I wanted to see the nice guy finish first instead of last. His character seemed very genuine and caring. I wanted to see him find his own happy ever after because he was jilted by Madelyn and because I wanted to know more about him and I'm really glad that Tracy Anne Warren gave us a book that takes a deeper look into his character.

What I didn't like:

In The Man Plan, James becomes of the object of Ivy Graysons deepest desires. Her sister may have left him at the altar, but Ivy wanted to be the one to pick up the pieces and now she may have her chance. James is a very successful businessman. His career and his love life seem to be going alright from an outsiders point of view. I liked James in this book, but not quite as much as in the first one. I thought he got a little short changed in The Man Plan. I wanted to see a lot more depth to his character. I understood his need to stay away from Ivy and her conniving. He was the older man and she seemed too young and naive for him, but he just couldn't resist. I was hoping for a love interest that was his equal and didn't quite find that here.

Ivy was not what I expected. I am generally okay with the theme of the older man, having been in that situation myself. But this time it just didn't seem to work. Ivy's maturity level was just too far removed from that of James. He seemed every inch, a man, while she still had all the characteristics of an infatuated girl. Her decisions were often rash and her reactions more like a teenager than a young woman. She goes into her 'man plan' to get James to fall in love with her, all the time knowing he had a girlfriend. I just couldn't make myself respect her or like her. That doesn't happen too often for me.

Bottom Line:

I like Tracy Anne Warren's writing but this book fell a little short for me. I wanted so much more for James. He had his moments of being underwhelming in this book and Ivy was just too young for him in every way. I wish I could have liked this one because I enjoyed James' character so much in the first one, but it just didn't hold together. The last few chapters were good, but the rest of the book was a bit too cliché. As with any book you should read it and see what you think. My opinion is just that, my opinion and yours may be different.

Mary Gramlich says

Ivy Grayson has been in love with James Jordan the entire 20 years of her life. Everyone wants to dismiss her feelings and say she will outgrow them, but love has a mind of its own and Ivy knows what she wants and what she will have. Every heart beat Ivy has longs just for the chance to show him she has grown up and desires the return of her love for him. She has grown up into an artist on the brink of discovery and still he sees her as the little sister, but Ivy is going to turn that impression around if it is the last thing she does.

James refuses to allow himself to see the beautiful woman Ivy has grown into, she is too young or so he keeps telling himself. Being older than her makes him the responsible one but Ivy has matured into a woman he admires and can see a future with, if he can stop trying to control her life. When they are together it is magic and the mere touch of her lips against his ignites a spark so fierce the room explodes with excitement and anticipation. James and Ivy have to allow their feelings to grow and expand past perception and outside influences, but is that possible?

When Ivy has had enough of everyone and their family member directing the flow of her life she takes a step back and regroups to learn to live on her own. What Ivy proves to everyone including James is that she is mature enough to support herself, she has the artistic talent to forge a career, and in the end it is all up to James to show he is mature enough to handle a relationship that is so deep it takes a lifetime to live it out.

Tracy Anne Warren second book in this series shows again how great writers create characters with depth, and such romantic overtones to keep every reader warm any night.

Mary says

<http://allaboutromance.com/book-revie...>

I generally like books by Tracy Anne Warren, which is why I requested this book to begin with. Unfortunately, this book hit quite a few of my “ick” triggers and I just could not get past them enough to enjoy the story.

Ivy Grayson has loved James Jordan since she was a little girl. Unfortunately, it was Ivy's sister Madelyn who initially won his heart. The book opens with Madelyn calling off her wedding to James at the church. Fifteen-year-old Ivy is heartbroken for him, but takes the opportunity to tell James that she is in love with him. James gently lets her down and they go their separate ways. Fast forward five years and Ivy has dropped out of college to become an artist. She is moving to New York City and will be living with several college aged males in a sketchy part of town. Her parents are naturally concerned and call upon James to look out for Ivy in the big city.

James has maintained contact with Madelyn and Ivy's parents despite the broken engagement between him and Ivy's older sister. Growing up next door to the Graysons, he spent more time at their home than his less than hospitable house and has always had a fond place in his heart for Ivy. Having changed her diapers as a toddler and bounced her upon his knee, James felt as if Ivy were the little sister he never had. So when the Graysons call upon him to watch over their baby, he is all over it. As a very successful financier, he owns a building in Manhattan and offers Ivy one of the apartments in this highly secure building.

Ivy is thrilled with the offer of an apartment in James' building. She has never stopped loving him and being in such close proximity will give her a chance to show him that she has now grown up and is old enough to be more than a sister figure. Unfortunately, James has a girlfriend and Ivy is going to have to contend with competition for his affections. So what is a girl to do? Seduce him of course.

While this is not exactly a May-December romance, sixteen years is a pretty large age gap when the heroine is only twenty years old. If Warren has made Ivy twenty-five instead of twenty, I might have bought into this relationship more, but there is a great deal of maturity that happens in those five years and in this book, we don't even have the excuse that Ivy is mature for her age. She acts like she is twenty, or maybe even eighteen. This is ick factor number one. Then Ivy decides to seduce James. James protests and tries to stay away, but Ivy just keeps pressuring him. I felt like the trope of a man pressuring a woman for sex until she finally gives in was just turned on its head here. Sex should never be about pressure in my opinion and that brings us to ick number two.

Then we have the pseudo incestuous angle. There is something about forming a romantic relationship with someone who has changed your diaper that almost makes my flesh crawl. Ick number three. I also do not like cheating and technically James cheated on his girlfriend Parker with Ivy. Parker is portrayed as a high society princess, but I actually formed more sympathy for her than I did Ivy. Ivy was really a little bit of a brat and she never really grew up as a character over the course of the book. Other than her long legs and gorgeous body, I have no clue what James saw in her other than a familiar face. Warren delves a bit deeper into Ivy's character than she does James' character. I do not feel as if I know him well enough to truly get a sense of who he is and frankly, I do not care to. The book did not have that much of a plot and was meant to be character driven I guess. Unfortunately I did not like the characters. I also did not care for the tightly contained, wealthy older man vs. the talented ingénue trope. There was just too much in this novel that ran to clichés.

I will not give up on Tracy Anne Warren over this one stinker, but I will read the book description a little more thoroughly before giving her next book a try. This book did NOT do it for me.

Cocktails and Books says

After three years of college, Ivy Grayson decides to drop out and move to New York City to pursue her painting career. Ivy's mom is worried about her being all alone in a strange city and asks James Jordan to look after her. James is thirty-six and a rich and successful businessman. He was Ivy's next door neighbor and five years ago, he was in love and engaged to Ivy's older sister Madelyn, but she changed her mind minutes before their wedding. Ivy is a risk taker. She is willing to forgo college to pursue a painting career, not knowing if she will be successful. She is also willing to take a chance and try to win James heart. She has been in love with him for years, but he sees her as a child. Ivy plans to change his perception of her as being too young for him and hopefully, win his love. As Ivy puts her plan in place, James struggles with his attraction to Ivy. The premise of this book made me uncomfortable. Tracy Anne Warren is a wonderful author, but I had a hard time dealing with the idea that James is sixteen years older than Ivy. She is twenty and he is thirty-six, that's a huge age difference. James grew up next door to Ivy and is almost like a brother or uncle to her. On top of that, he was in love with and engaged to Ivy's sister. I liked James, he's a nice guy, but I didn't think he was right for Ivy.

Reviewed by Karen for Cocktails and Books

Dark Faerie Tales says

Review courtesy of Dark Faerie Tales

Quick & Dirty: Ivy has loved James her whole life. Now she finally has the chance to get him. Will he let their age difference ruin their chances for love?

Opening Sentence: Bang.

The Review:

Ivy has been in love with James her whole life. He was engaged to her sister though, so she could never do anything about it. After her sister leaves him at the altar, Ivy finally finds the courage to confess her feelings to James only to have him turn her down. Fast forward five years. Ivy is dropping out of college to pursue an art career, and her parents would rather she live in James' apartment building than the apartment she was planning on renting with friends. Since James lives in the building as well as owns it, Ivy finally sees her chance. This is the perfect opportunity to make James realize they are meant for each other. Will James still see her as just a little sister, or will he realize that his feelings run deeper than that?

I was excited to pick this book up because I really enjoyed the last Tracy Anne Warren book I read. Unfortunately, my excitement ended up being a bit premature, as I did not enjoy this book nearly as much. I had a lot of trouble connecting to James. With all of his protesting about the area Ivy was planning on living, he really came off as arrogant and pretentious, not likeable at all. I honestly think Ivy could have done better and deserves better.

Another unexpectedly big issue for me was the age difference. Normally, I don't have much of a problem with a hero and heroine having a large age difference. Here, however, the fact that James knew Ivy when she was in diapers is repeatedly mentioned. With each subsequent mention, the age difference just became creepier and creepier in my head. It's kind of like how I forget about the age difference between my parents until someone mentions the fact that my dad was learning to drive when my mom was in 2nd grade. As long as that thought remains in my head, the age difference appears creepy. Since the age difference was mentioned so often, I had no opportunity to really forget about it as the book went on.

There was also an issue of pacing. Time skips around a lot. It ends up feeling as if we're just seeing snippets of Ivy and James' relationship rather than a coherent whole. The book ends up feeling a little staggered, and because of that, I never really had a good grasp of why Ivy and James were so into each other.

All in all, this book was a disappointment, perhaps made bigger because I was so looking forward to reading something else by Tracy Anne Warren. I'm hoping this was just a fluke and that the next one I read will be more on par with the book I really enjoyed by her. I'm going to keep my fingers crossed!

Notable Scene:

He finally broke his silence when they reached her apartment door. "What time should I come by to pick you up tomorrow night?"

Six thirty, she thought. Six thirty, so we'll have time for a quick dinner before the concert.

But instead of those simple, nonconfrontational words, some devil prompted her to say something else.

"You still want to go to the concert, then? I thought maybe you'd decided to pick Parson up at the airport instead and spend the evening entertaining her."

His jaw tightened, his blue eyes turning hard. "I wasn't, but it can always be arranged."

She knew she should back down, knew she should do whatever it took to end their fight, to smooth over the angry words and nasty silences. But her feelings were hurt, and damned if she was going to let him treat her like some spoiled child who didn't enjoy sharing her toys.

She squared her shoulders and looked him in the eye. "If that's what you'd rather, it won't put me out. Fred can use your ticket. He's been salivating over the concert ever since he heard I was going. He's a nice guy. You'd like Fred."

For a moment James looked ready to explode. Then it passed, a chill sweeping into his eyes. "I sincerely doubt that, but it doesn't matter. If you don't want to go to the concert with me, that's fine. Good night, Ivy."

He turned and strode down the hall toward the elevator.

When he was gone, she closed the door and leaned back against it, tears already sliding down her cheeks. God above, what have I done?

FTC Advisory: Penguin/Signet provided me with a copy of The Man Plan. No goody bags, sponsorships, "material connections," or bribes were exchanged for my review.

Perpetua says

Needy and too young heroine

OpenBookSociety.com says

<http://openbooksociety.com/article/th...>

Brought to you by OBS reviewer Heidi

There is nothing more bitter than a lover scorned. And, that's exactly how James feels after he's jilted at the altar, his bride running off to be with another man. To quickly be followed by her teenage sister confessing her undying affection to him, a teenage crush it appears.

Five years later that teenager has grown and just dropped out of college to pursue her art dreams in New York. Her mom asks for James's help in finding her a safe place to live and to look after her. The Graysons are like family, better than family to James, and he quickly agrees to help and puts Ivy up in his building, a

complex he owns no less! It's hard to believe that little girl has grown into the 20 year old bombshell she is now.

Ivy may be older, but her lifelong obsession with James hasn't faded in the least. She is more determined than ever to have him, at any cost. Now it's just up to her to convince him that she's the one for him.

I really wanted to like this book, but frankly I just found Ivy to be ... annoying, extremely so. She is very much as immature as she was during her confession to James on his would have been wedding day when she was fifteen. At one point in the book James told her she was behaving like a spoiled child and I couldn't have agreed more and was ecstatic someone finally told her as much! She comes from a well-off family, drops out of school and they pay for her while she plays in New York to try to make it as an artist. And not only pay, but put her up in James's swanky complex. Poor spoiled baby, but she's not happy until she gets the man she wants to. She had a one track mind the entire time: to possess James for her very own.

James was an okay character, he was trying to do what seemed right to him and stay away from Ivy, but with her constantly throwing herself at him, he eventually couldn't resist and caved. Overall though neither of these characters really spoke to me or even interested me all that much, making the relationship bland and whiny frankly.

I hope that all of Warren's books aren't like this one, but I honestly don't know as I've never read her work before. This one just didn't hit the mark for me. I guess I'll have to wait until the next release of the series to decide if it's worth another try.

OBS would like to thank the publisher for supplying a free copy of this title in exchange for an honest review

Nefise says

3.5 stars

It was really nice reading for me. Particularly I like hero, James very much. He's elegant, sophisticated and at the same time sweet and thoughtful. Heroine is also with sweet nature. At the beginning, disparity in age with H/h bothered me, but Ms Warren recovered it nicely.

The last quarter part was very enjoyable. It made me wonder how will be next book. And there was a mini part about it too and I liked it very much. So I would like to read next book in the series.

AM says

While this book was certainly well written I wish Ivy's character wasn't so young compared to James. I liked both of the characters but there's just something a little pervy about falling for a girl who you used to carry piggy back when she was a kid. Plus, James was in love with Ivy's older sister. If Ivy could've been a little bit older I would feel more comfortable giving this book a solid 4 or even five star rating. But as it is, I think it encourages young ladies to fall for father figures. There's just something not right about that in my mind. It's like how Woody Allen married his adopted daughter. Just Ick!

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Kitty's review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

5 STARS

Review copy provided for an honest review

Love, romance, heartache, misunderstandings ... everything that belongs in a contemporary romance brought to life in living color by an author that is an expert at weaving a story that draws you in from the beginning and doesn't let you go until the final "I Love You".

My heart broke for James in "The Last Man on Earth" and I was so looking forward to see how everything would turn out for him. I waited breathlessly for The Man Plan and I was not disappointed in the least. He fulfilled all of my expectations and pissed me off. He took a little too much time figuring out his feelings for Ivy, worrying about what other people would think, worrying about how her sister (his ex-fiance) and her parents would react. Unfortunately, it took Ivy going out on her own, not depending on anyone and making her way in the world without his protection, for him to see the light.

Ivy, only being 20, was one strong-willed, beautiful person. She sets her sights on a goal and she goes for it. James has been her dream since she can remember. She professed her love at 15 when Madelyn stood him up at that alter and she has never stopped loving him. Her schemes to get him to notice her now, to fall in love with her, cause her nothing but tears and heart-ache. Yes, this is why he pissed me off. But, making it on her own is what finally brings him to his knees.

I can't say enough good about Tracy Anne Warren and the way she is bringing the Grayson series alive for me. The story is quick-paced (except for James and his dilly-dallying), humorous and just plain fun. Even with the age difference between James and Ivy, you can't help but root for their HEA. And, what an HEA she gave them so romantic, so out-of-nature for James. I am definitely looking forward to "Man Oh Man" when we find out just how hard the next Grayson sister falls.

Christina says

Complimentary copy provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

The Man Plan is the second book in The Grayson's series however it can be read as a standalone. In this installment, we begin with James Jordan, wealthy businessman being left at the altar by his bride to be, Madelyn. Madelyn is featured in the first book, which chronicles her love affair and relationship with Zack. Enough backstory is included in this book that it is not necessary to have read the first to know what is going on.

Immediately after Madelyn runs off, Ivy, Madelyn's fifteen-year-old sister, approaches thirty-one year old James. James has known Ivy nearly her entire life. But when she tells him that she wants to marry him and is willing to wait for as long as it takes to be with him, he quickly dismisses her as a childhood crush.

So when Ivy decides to drop out of college following her third year and move to New York in order to pursue her dream of being an artist, Ivy inserts herself back into James's life. In a favor to her parents, James provides Ivy with an apartment in a tony upper eastside Manhattan location, keeping her out of the rat-

infested artist building where she was planning to share an apartment with three men. The only reason Ivy agrees to move into James's building is so that she can begin to pursue him, and convince him that at age 20, she is more than ready to step into the shoes that Madelyn left when she left James at the altar.

Unfortunately James still sees Ivy as the little girl whose diapers he helped change. Granted, he finds her insanely attractive and the bond that the two of them have from growing up together helps to fuel the attraction between them, James is afraid that any relationship with her would not go over well not only with his ex Madelyn, but her parents as well. He doesn't want to risk losing the only family he has ever known to be with Ivy. But when he finds he can't stop thinking about her, he can't live without her, and finally confronts his feelings about Madelyn; he wants to give it a go. Problem is, it may be too late. Ivy has moved out of James's building and has decided to try life as an independent 20 year old. Is there room in Ivy's new life for James? Or is she better off with a man her own age?

The Man Plan is a fun, quick, well-written book. Unfortunately it is a little too predictable for my tastes. The characters are relatively well developed, however the character of James seemed to be so arrogant, I'm not entirely sure I liked him. Ivy seemed to have to defend his actions more than once to her friend; it was obvious he thought her friends were beneath him. That just didn't strike me as an endearing characteristic.

The Man Plan was a solid 3 ½ stars. It would make a great beach/vacation read and would be perfect for fans of May/December romances. There is a little bit of heat, but honestly it's about a PG-13 book in my world. I liked the history between the characters and Ms. Warren did a great job of making those relationships believable, and developing them to make it easy to set up for subsequent books, but I just didn't care much for James.

Estance Moriarty says

Urgh. I really loved the first book, but this one, I didn't not enjoy...
I'll have to read some other books by Tracy Warren...

Joy says

Saw this at the library, and picked it up because it looks like fun!

I'm glad I saw this book at the library. I enjoyed it very much and will probably read the next one in the series. If you enjoy chick lit you will like this one.

Jenica says

I stayed up past my bedtime reading this one, but it was SO GOOD. The age difference is 15 years or so, so if that's a thing you're fervently opposed to, skip this one.

BUT SO GOOD. I loved Ivy and I loved the conflict. Excellent book.

Kayla says

4.5 stars

The girl is RECKLASS!!! This was cute, funny and some moments cringe worthy . . . but definitely worth reading.
