



## **It's Got to Be Perfect: the memoirs of a modern-day matchmaker**

*Haley Hill*

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When Ellie Rigby hurls her three-carat engagement ring into the gutter, she is certain of only one thing, that she has yet to know true love.

Following months of disastrous internet dates and conflicting advice from her dysfunctional friends, she decides to take matters into her own hands. Although now, instead of just looking for a man for herself, she's certain her life's purpose is to find deep and meaningful love for all the singles in the world.

Five years on, running the UK's biggest matchmaking agency, and with thousands of engagements to her name, she has all the answers she needs. She knows why eighty-five percent of relationships fail. She knows why twenty-eight is the most eligible age for a woman. She knows that by thirty-five she'll have only a thirty-percent chance of marriage.

Most of all, she knows that no matter what, it has to be perfect. Or does it?

## **It's Got to Be Perfect: the memoirs of a modern-day matchmaker Details**

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## **From Reader Review It's Got to Be Perfect: the memoirs of a modern-day matchmaker for online ebook**

### **Anna says**

4.5 Stars!

I was so delighted and grateful to get a chance to read and review It's Got to Be Perfect! I had read a couple of reviews of it, and then got a chance to see the book trailer. After that I was sold, and I just had to read it for myself. The book trailer is so cute, and I wanted to share it with you all, so here goes:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFzSc4...>  
?

The story begins with a young woman named Ellie, who is engaged to man who she believes is perfect. He's rich, handsome, and athletic. She soon learns he's not all what he's cracked up to be, and finds herself single once again.

Two years later, and Ellie's still single. She's dated a lot of guys that she wished she'd never met. She's exasperated and frustrated. She has expectations for what she wants in a man, and will not settle for anything less. What Ellie doesn't seem to realize at first, is that she isn't quite perfect herself, so to expect perfection from a man, isn't ideal. Thankfully, her friend Matthew, sets her straight and calls her on her double standards. I really liked Matthew. He gives Ellie great advice and doesn't hold back when it comes to honesty. He once asked her why dating a wealthy man was important?

"So I can live in a big house and have a nice lifestyle, without having to worry about money."

My new friend Matthew's reply:

"Well, madam," he began peering over his glasses, "in this day and age, a lady can go out and achieve such things without the aid of a man. So, you're just being a lazybones."

Isn't he great??

Ellie begins to rethink her approach to finding Mr. Right, and decides to help others find their perfect match instead. She really believes there's someone perfect for each of us. She starts a matchmaking service, and soon hires on a couple of associates to help her when her new business takes off.

It's Got to be Perfect was very entertaining and funny! I enjoyed reading other peoples' opinions about what

they think love is and what their ideal, perfect mate would be like. Many of the characters were quirky and fun. I also appreciated that we got to follow some of them for a few years and see how they were doing on their search for love and happiness. I especially liked Jeremy and Harriet's story. I'll admit, I wasn't sure what to think of Harriet at first, but I grew to like her in the end, and I found I could relate to her.

Victoria and Mandi were two more characters that I enjoyed reading about. The banter between these two was hilarious, as they were complete opposites. I was surprised to find that there was more to Mandi than what she appeared to be most times. She turned out to be very intelligent and thoughtful.

I found myself wanting to read more, once I finished this book. I wanted to see if Ellie did find her HEA after all. I can only imagine that she did. She learned so much throughout this book, and her expectations for what she wanted in a mate did indeed change.

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### **Elaine says**

The dedication in this book gives a clue to the expertise and knowledge the author really has of the matchmaking world. She actually launched and ran a highly successful 'Elect Club dating agency' and has used this experience to create an entertaining book on this theme. Knowing that background information made me more eager to read this since it is on a similar theme and I wasn't disappointed - a story full of wonderful characters, all looking for their ideal perfect love. Their interactions are, at times, hilarious and the plot is well paced. A sweet chicklit to relax with, an ideal one to brighten your day and bring a smile to your face.

The heroine of the story is Ellie Rigby, who had so little success at finding her match she decided to start her own agency. She has high ideals and believes her love needs to be perfect - but does it really? The first part of the book is about how she started it, sharing some hilarious moments and brilliant potential clients. Part Two is apparently some years later by which time the agency is the biggest in the UK with thousands of people introduced through it and now engaged or married. Throughout the story there are snippets relating to Ellie and her team's interactions with clients, their 'dates' and her own love life (or lack of it). Statistics are frightening but she still hopes she finds a hope of finding - and keeping - her true love, but you'll have to read it yourself to find out if she does or doesn't!

Thanks to the publisher for letting me read an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Julie Haigh says**

Hilarious, funny modern romance.

I won this book in a goodreads.com giveaway. It is a nice light-hearted comedy and some of the writing gets to your emotions too. (eg. page 65 re the dog). The book starts off where Ellie, engaged to Robert, is at a Wedding Show with friends. Robert has made excuses as to why he couldn't attend and Ellie tells of his penchant for porn. She eventually ends their relationship and tosses her engagement ring away. She then has to start all over again in her quest to find Mr Right. This is quite a fun read with some very humorous moments, and sometimes, a bit of suspense. It would make a good holiday read. It is quite saucy at times. If you like a good old fashioned read then maybe this isn't for you?-Catherine Cookson it is not! I liked it quite a lot but even then, at times it made me feel a little old. I think it's perhaps more suited to a younger audience than me, maybe 20's and 30's, but yes I did enjoy it and some of it I absolutely loved. There are some great humorous similes in this book, I kept chuckling at these. Very different to any I have seen before, unusual, funny and refreshing. Haley Hill has interesting new ways of saying more usual expressions. Ellie tries dating again and decides it is her vocation to become a matchmaker. This makes for lots of characters coming and going throughout the book, so I sometimes found it difficult to keep track of them. Some would be 'one-date-wonders' and would quickly flash in and out of the action so it wasn't necessary to remember everyone. Some scenes I wasn't keen on but there are really people like this so it's realistic I suppose. There are some good dialogue scenes, very readable. I like that some of the story is told through emails and text messages, this adds to the variety and realism for me. As the story really got going, I was reading well into the small hours-a sure sign of a good book. There is a really hilarious incident-totally different-an injury that's certainly never cropped up in any book I have read before! Haley Hill has drawn on her own real life experiences as a matchmaker for this book so it's amazing to think if this is one of those true happenings that someone has told her of! There are a lot of slightly overdone descriptions of women in this book for me-we're not all perfect busty blondes-and I don't want to be- I would have liked more down-to-earth characters as well, characters with flaws and extra weight etc. The presentation of this book is wonderful. It has a lovely distinctive cover, a gorgeous pinky-purple colour. It would catch your eye in any bookshop. In the print copy, each page number is encased by two little hearts either side of it-this is a nice little touch that just finishes it off as a whole package. Very well thought-out. I enjoyed this book. It only suffered a bit because I had a long spell of non-reading. Just as I had really got into it and was devouring it, I was really ill and didn't have the urge to pick up any form of reading which is very unlike me. For a couple of weeks I had a gap in the story so I was concerned I would lose the thread and have to restart the book. Once I was well again, I got back into it easily and enjoyed it all over again. For this reason it is a bit difficult to judge the real pace of this book. The book was fairly accurate. The main error for me was the word 'span' as in 'she span around'-I think this should read 'spun around', this expression was used a few times. Another error is on page 126-'a broad as a' should read 'as broad as a'. Page 142 repeated word-'could the truth could ever be' and page 227 'violin quartet'-this should be 'string quartet'-it isn't four violins, it always consists of two violins, a viola and a cello so is a string quartet. Enjoyable, fresh, bubbly, amusing. Well worth a read.

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### **Ginette Satherley says**

I have just finished this and I absolutely loved it :)

I was hooked from the first page, couldn't wait to keep reading and find out what happened next, Ellie is a really likeable character and the book is really funny.

I will be looking out for future books from Haley.

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## **Megan Readinginthesunshine says**

I was SO looking forward to reading It's Got To Be Perfect – I absolutely love the cover, it is gorgeous and something that really appeals to me, and the line “The memoirs of a modern-day matchmaker” had me very intrigued!

After many disastrous dates and conflicting advice from friends, Ellie decides it is time to take matters into her own hands! But she also decides she's going to expand, and instead of just finding her Mr Right, she's going to help all the singles out there find love! And five years on, she's running the UK's biggest matchmaking agency, with a great success rate and hundreds of engagements to her name! Most of all, she knows that it has to be perfect...or does it?

I absolutely loved It's Got To Be Perfect! Haley has written such a fantastic novel and had me hooked from the first page. It was a story where once I'd started I found it impossible to put down, and I thoroughly enjoyed my time with Ellie!

To say it is funny is an understatement – this book had me laughing out loud hysterically. It is just such an addictive read, I was smiling and laughing and at times I was cringing too!

I liked Ellie from the beginning, I warmed to her straight away and she fascinated me. I loved reading about her role as a matchmaker, what she did, the advice she gave and how things ran when running a matchmaking agency. It gave me a real insight into another side of finding love, and I really enjoyed this. I'm sure there will be readers out there who can definitely relate to some of the scenes in the book too.

The characters are very vibrant – they jump to life from the pages and they are so interesting to read about! It's Got To Be Perfect is really refreshing – it is honest, it is funny and it is fantastic. I'd definitely recommend this.

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## **Rachel says**

From the first page I was hooked, this book has a good way of drawing the reader in. Especially with the funny exchanges between Ellie and her friends.

Ellie is likeable even at the start with her slightly skewed belief in finding the perfect man or what she constitutes as the perfect man. As Ellie is on her mission to match her clients together there are plenty of laugh out moments.

Each of the clients that Ellie had were unique characters trying to find love. Most of them were likeable and I thought the bit when Mr Marbella punched the snowboarder was great.

Overall I really enjoyed Ellie's matchmaking journey, this book had both laughs and some realistic romances. Well worth a read!

P.S

Thanks to Haley for my First Reads copy!

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### **Simona says**

\*Book provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review\*

This story is inspired by the author's own matchmaking experiences and together with the blurb that sounded really promising.

Ellie Rigby is a matchmaker and I really enjoyed having insight in what she's doing. It's a really hard job. Matching single people and meeting so many of them at the same time, her client list grows fast and meanwhile we also meet some friends of her. Haley found a great way to include this all in a book and describe these funny and entertaining scenes. I got swept into the story pretty fast and read these dates and matching tries with a lot of interest.

While Ellie is doing this all, she is craving for a man herself, she doesn't get younger after all, right?! Well, she meets Nick, but it gets very complicated and I have to say, I don't really know what to say about him, which is a bit of a pity.

Ellie is a great character, down to earth and normal and a joy to follow around.

Her assistants Mani and Mia also get their stories told and the bunch was so much fun. They are all very vibrant characters, who made the story sparkly.

The book is in two parts, the second part is set 5 years later. It took me a while to realise that and I felt that there were parts of Ellie's story missing here.

It's Got To Be Perfect is a funny, romantic and sweet read, I really enjoyed it. Haley's writing is vivid, fresh and very cute!

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### **Jody says**

Review first posted on my blog: <http://spoonfulofhappyendings.blogspot.com>...

Ellie Rigby has had it with online dating. Looking for a decent guy seems to be like looking for a needle in a haystack and she's sick and tired of dealing with one dating disaster after another. Then one day, Ellie suddenly realises what she must do: if others can't help her find a suitable guy, why shouldn't she take matters into her own hands and step into the business side of the world of dating herself? Ellie sets up her own matchmaking agency and before she knows it, she has a whole list of clients to take care of. With a successful business at the age of twenty-eight, Ellie hopes it will only be a matter of time before she runs into her own Prince Charming. But while Ellie constantly tells her clients they have to let go of the idea of finding the perfect partner, she can't seem to shake that idea when it comes to her own dating life...

'It's Got to Be Perfect' was first released in 2013 and is based on author Haley Hill's own experiences after

setting up her own matchmaking agency in 2005. I thought it was quite a promising debut novel and the author is actually working on a sequel right now, which I'm looking forward to picking up as well! I loved the basic plotline of the book; main character Ellie decides to move past all the dating disasters in her life and sets up her own matchmaking business. I loved reading about all the different people that wanted to make use of Ellie's services and how certain matches resulted in either happiness or disaster. A lot of different characters are introduced and some of the things they did really had me laughing out loud.

Unfortunately, I just didn't manage to really click with Ellie, the protagonist of the novel. She continued to be a bit distant and I wouldn't describe her as a warm and easy-to-love character. I probably liked Ellie's two colleagues Thea and Mandi better; they're two complete opposites but really worked well with the story. There was an unexpected time jump in the middle of the book which took me by surprise. We suddenly miss a few years in Ellie's life and business, which on the one hand was a pity because it really felt like I was missing certain details but on the other hand it was fun to have this look into the future. Overall, I thought 'It's Got to Be Perfect' was an entertaining and funny romance read about the world of matchmaking; not one of my absolute favourites, but worth picking up if you're a chick lit fan!

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### **Agi says**

"It's Got to be Perfect" is Haley Hall's debut novel and as she herself was a professional match - maker I thought the idea of writing a book about what she really knows and can do is a great one. It truly appeals to me, just imagine how much fun it can be! And so, full of hope and expectations, I started to read this novel.

And the beginning was good, albeit very quick. I felt as if a whirlwind of action got by - Ellie, the main character, decides she's going to be a match - maker and she immediately becomes a match - maker, without researching, without anything, only collecting people in the pubs and restaurants, and it somehow works. Unfortunately, quickly I found that I really couldn't care less about what's going to happen, and how many new characters are going to be introduced to us. Also, the easiness the whole business is blossoming was a matter of confusion for me. I mean, Ellie just started it, just like we click our fingers, and there was not a single problem, not a single money issue, and the clients were appearing also just like that. Then, suddenly, somewhere in the middle, the book just jumps forwards few years. We don't know why, we don't know what happened in between, we know nothing, only that the company is working and growing.

The idea of this book was really good in my opinion, it's just that for me it seemed ragged, not thought through. There was so much potential in this dating business, and some of the dates were really funny, but I missed a depth to this all, some feeling. Also, the descriptions of the dating business were for me a little too superficial, I'd love to hear more about how, when, why and who, and I'd missed much more hilarious stories. What I also find a shame is that I didn't get any clearer information how the couples were actually matched - this I would love to know! I just had a feeling that the story is dragging nowhere.

I also couldn't connect with the characters. No idea why, because they seemed to be normal characters, but there was nothing that made me care about them. They were just very straightforward characters, okay, decent people but they had nothing in them that would make them to the top, and make them unforgettable or special.

I also found myself skipping the whole pages, as the story just wasn't able to keep my attention, and I was thinking as I am this far already, I'm going to finish this book, no matter what. I think that it just started

promising, but then only went downhill. It makes me really sad, because I had incredibly high expectations for this novel, and I am truly disappointed that it didn't work for me. But oh my goodness, please do check this book for yourself - it has some really great reviews, so you might find this a hilarious read, just something that you were looking for! I am really sad it was not the case for me, as I so wanted to love the story! Nevertheless, I am looking forward to a new book from Haley Hill, and hope to be able to read it sooner rather than later!

Copy received from publisher in exchange for a review.

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### **Zee Monodee says**

This book would be enjoyable if only for the treasure trove of bad dates and all the 'worst' of what can happen on the dating scene. But it is actually more than that, in that it is also an enjoyable story with an engaging and sympathetic character

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### **Read Adult Romance ([readadultromance.com](http://readadultromance.com)) says**

Read more of this and the rest of it at [readadultromance.com](http://readadultromance.com).

### **Matchmaker, Matchmaker, Make me a Match**

I'm torn between giving *It's Got to Be Perfect* a 4 or 5 stars because you can't have 4.5 stars. When I read the synopsis of the book (it was listed in a Goodreads Giveaway) I knew I would want to win it and read it. But then as luck would have it, it was free for the day on Kindle! (I didn't win it, btw.)

It was Valentine's Day and after all the festivities were done, I read the book in my bed. All that anticipation did not go to waste because I enjoyed all the insight given in the book. After Ellie left her fiance, she decides to open a matchmaking agency with the success of pairing up her male best friend. Match-making ahoy!

We aren't entitled to love. We have to earn it and fight to keep it. And even then most of the time it shit all over us.

I really wanted to like this book. **It had everything I was looking for.** Strong women, romance, supportive partners-in-crime, great idea to set up the story. And I did like it with positive women and freeing ideas of how women can behave. The men take a backseat in the story. Ellie tries to encompass men and women from all facets who all looked for different things and things that she didn't agree with. She allows her clients to make their own mistakes and try to match themselves up with people who would never work out. Her hopefulness in trying again and again for her clients and always believing in love is so positive to see and refreshing. She is not naive (her new employee, Mandi) or cynical (her new employee after that, Mia) so she manages to strike a balance between the two and act as the mediator.

**The thing I didn't like about it** was that it *showed* a lot more than it told. We read about how Ellie loves her significant other but we rarely - if any - see the two of them actually interact with each other. Ellie talks about how love is loving the person underneath - something she tells her clients often - but to me it looks like

she likes the *lifestyle* the partnership offers. Again, something she tells her client to avoid going into any relationship.

Another thing that irked me was the constant jump around and introduction of new characters. I had to re-read a passage several time because it jumped from her flat (she was with her roommate) to a random bar and someone named Caro. (I also thought the ebook was missing pages. And it still could?) At first, I thought it was a nickname to her friend Cordelia. But then I realized they were two entities. In the end I was still unsure who she was other than a good friend that comes and goes.

I remembered another thing - how come Ellie never turns down any client. Even if they treat her badly or are actually horrible human beings. Instead she lets them yell and demean her, and she still finds them a match. When her agency explodes with new clients, she has the ability to pick and choose whoever she wants. She doesn't. It was infuriating to see her getting yelled at.

**Despite all that,** *It's Got to Be Perfect* is still a great book to read when you want to see women up-front-and-centre, have positive women friends and takes control of her life. There's no controlling men yanking our protagonist around. There's no helpless princess waiting to be rescued. I give it a 4.5 and rounded down to 4 (out of 5). I really wish I could give it a 5.

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## Abbey says

CHANCE TO WIN YOUR SIGNED COPY OF IT'S GOT TO BE PERFECT ON MY BLOG RIGHT NOW  
<http://missbookworm23.blogspot.co.uk/>... PART OF FICTION ADDICTION BOOK TOUR.

*Title: It's Got To Be Perfect*

*Author: Haley Hill*

*Publisher: Troubador*

*Publication Date: 1st September 2013*

### **Blurb**

*VIEW BOOK TRAILER: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFzSc4...>*

*"When Ellie Rigby hurls her three-carat engagement ring into the gutter, she is certain of only one thing, that she has yet to know true love.*

*Following months of disastrous internet dates and conflicting advice from her dysfunctional friends, she decides to take matters into her own hands. Although now, instead of just looking for a man for herself, she's certain her life's purpose is to find deep and meaningful love for all of the singles in the world.*

*Five years on, running the UK's biggest matchmaking agency, and with hundreds of engagements to her name, she has all the answers she needs.*

*She knows why eighty-five percent of relationships fail. She knows why twenty-eight is the most eligible age for a woman. She knows that by thirty-five she'll have only a thirty-percent chance of marriage.*

*Most of all, she knows that no matter what, it has to be perfect.*

*Or does it?*

*?It's Got to Be Perfect is inspired the author's six years as a matchmaker in London*

## **Verdict**

- Amazingly & A Funny Read one to treasure forever!

ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC!! Sorry I just had to say that! Haley Hill is just a fantastic lady who has become a first time author and I am so happy for her.

I first met Haley when she asked me to read & review her book for her and I was so excited and I was then asked by Sharon Goodwin for Fiction Addiction could I be part of the book tour for It's got to be perfect and I jumped at the chance.

I enjoyed this book ever so much!

It's got to be perfect is a fantastic read which is inspired on Haley's six years as a matchmaker in London. So you can imagine while reading this you giggle like mad at some of the people who wanted matchmaking and what they got up to on their dates.

I love the character Ellie Rigby and seeing her blossom from having a crappy engagement with her fiance when she throws her engagement ring away and from crappy internet dates, blind dates and conflict advice from her friends to then deciding one day she could change all that by becoming a matchmaker and setting up what would be the UK's biggest matchmaking agency.

Do all relationships & Marriages have to be perfect? That's where Ellie Rigby comes in handy!

I loved this book and I was forever giggling along, It is an easy read that you will read and love some of the characters and the matchmaking dates that happen.

I am sooo happy that Haley finally finished this book as she had been writing it for years but with all her experience and stories she has been able to write a superb and wonderful book that people will love and treasure forever!

Thank you Haley Hill for giving me the chance to be part of your book tour and giving me the pleasure of having a book I can now treasure forever and being a pleasure of Author/Blogger friendship. Also a huge thank you to Sharon Goodwin from Fiction Addiction Book Tours :)

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## **Polly Courtney says**

A rather hilarious romp through the world of matchmaking. Recommend to all chick-lit lovers!

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## **Sorcha O'Dowd says**

Full Review 24/10/13

I honestly don't know how to review this book as I so easily gave it five stars and just want to scream to the world "GO AND READ THIS BOOK!"

I have honestly never laughed so much whilst reading a book in my entire life. It was so funny, and cleverly written. I absolutely adored it. I think every person who reads this book would agree with me. There's just so

much truth to the story and frankness with which author Haley Hill introduces us to the men and women of the world who wish to find their perfect match.

The story was written to absolute perfection. Haley Hill's writing style was absolutely brilliant, and Ellie's internal narrative was so much fun to read and so cleverly put together, that I would read another book by this author in a heartbeat. As well as it being light relief to read, I also thought that it was realistic and relatable to people today.

What I really loved about this book is how Haley Hill took the story to the next level by making the hope of a 'happily ever after' less likely. This really made me connect to the story in a way that I often don't with this sort of chick lit. Being able to sympathise with the desire for a 'happily ever after' I felt so in tune with the characters, both the clients, and Ellie when her relationship with Nick begins to sour.

Ellie and Nick's courtship is great to read for any romantic, yet I was more devastated than I usually am in books when their relationship ended four years later. It was a stark reminder that not everybody gets their happy ending with the person they love, and that sometimes we have to get through life alone. I was so desperate to see these characters reconcile and the connection to the characters Haley Hill gave me with her incredible writing, made the story even more emotional and heartfelt.

An extra fun part of this book was seeing what the clients wanted in their perfect partner. It gave a hilarious realisation to see that today we tend to have a shopping list for what we want in a partner, the most common being their appearance. Whilst some were more extreme than others (I laughed so much at some of the clients preferences), it shows that love tends to be a second thought despite how romantic many people are today.

Overall this was a fantastic read and is on my list of favourite books of all time. I have never laughed so much in my life, and would buy this book for my girlfriends for birthdays and christmas. 5 Stars!

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### **Heidi says**

I was really excited to start reading this book. I love watching the TV programme The Millionaire Matchmaker and thought if this book is only half as funny as said TV programme, then I am in for a treat. And what a treat it was!! Haley's description of the dating scene is utterly hilarious and the slightly cringe worthy moments make for such an exhilarating read.

I enjoyed Ellie's character from the beginning on. I think, I speak for nearly all of us, in saying that at one point in our lives we have been through one or the other dating disasters described in the book (no, I won't say which ones apply to me – I am glad I successfully manoeuvered myself out of the scary dating scene :-)).

If you are feeling low and/or are trying to escape a bad day, pick up this book and I am sure it will plaster a huge smile back onto your face.

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