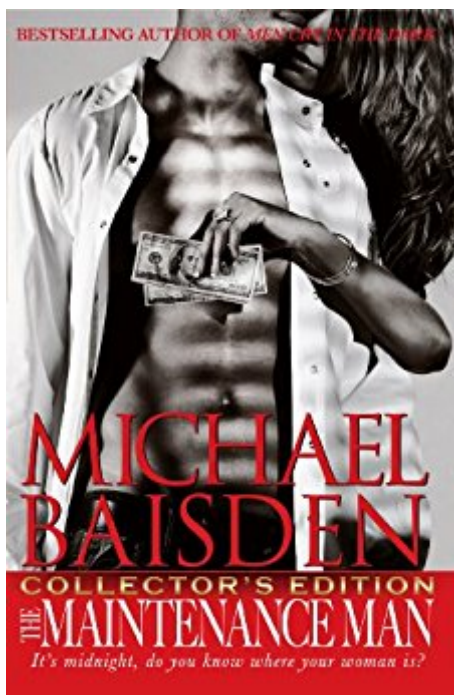


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The Maintenance Man Collector's Edition



Synopsis

It's midnight do you know where your woman is? Every Woman's Dream: Malcolm Tremell is handsome, charismatic and a great lover; but in his world sex is not a game it's serious business. Every week his schedule is booked with secret rendezvous, extravagant dinners and sessions of passionate love making, all for the right price. But Malcolm begins to reflect on his gigolo lifestyle when he meets Toni, a talented dancer and choreographer. But can her love transform him into the man he wants to be and the man she needs to make both their lives complete.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I make it a point to try to read a book from front to back even when I find myself less than entertained by it. I don't like leaving things half done and I usually feel that I could be missing something if I don't finish a book. With this book, I felt early on that I wouldn't be missing a thing if I quit reading. The writing is very flat. Kind of, 'he goes here', 'he does this'. Short bits of boring dialogue followed by descriptions of people or places that just seem cursory. However, one thing the author never describes is the first key character, Malcolm. You do learn very quickly that Malcolm, a high-price male prostitute, is mean, callous, dismissive and arrogant with the first two clients of his

that you meet in the book. It's amazing to me that he even has any clients if this is how he treats them. If you think that he only treats his female clients that way...wrong! He is very rude and dismissive and quite mean to a random woman in a club. You would think that someone who makes his living by "dating" women, he would want to treat every woman like a goddess. You never know when you could pick up a new client after all. At this point in the book, barely halfway through chapter 2, I absolutely hate Malcolm and don't care to learn any more about him. The author tries to introduce us to a few new characters in another city, but, again, has the same problem engaging the reader and making you want to learn more about the characters. I gave up and quit reading this book early in chapter 7. I just didn't want to find out more about the characters, didn't care where life was going to take them. Along with the un-engaging characters, flat dialogue and slightly schizophrenic pace of this book, I found small annoyances in the writing.

This book isn't easy to categorize, it's not just a romance or a social commentary or urban fiction, but a mix of all of these. Primarily the book follows the story of Malcolm, an attractive and talented jazz pianist who studied at Julliard but who pursues a "career" as a male escort. It also follows the life of his best friend Simon, who grew up on Chicago's south side with Malcolm but is now a successful nightclub owner in Atlanta. Weaving the stories of their lives and relationships in with the people who work for them or around them allows the author to compare and contrast different types of adult relationships. Malcolm has totally superficial interactions that are basically cash for services rendered with women, but some deep and abiding friendships with men he can trust. When he meets a woman that he actually falls in love with, he's not quite sure how to handle it outside the "player's rules". Simon has committed to his girlfriend and is engaged even though she cheated on him before. When she starts to act strangely, he hires private eye to see if she's cheating again. Simon's club manager is an attractive woman who just seems to date the wrong men, looking for someone who won't be intimidated by her intelligence and ends up hurting the one who's the best friend she has. An exotic dancer at Simon's club treats women with contempt, but gets away with it because of his good looks and charm, until he cheats one time too many and ends up homeless, then gets arrested as a deadbeat dad, and finally meets the vengeance of a jealous husband. It's an interesting look at how people approach their most intimate relationships; do they neglect them by working too much, causing their partner to look elsewhere?

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