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Brett Sills

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My Sweet Saga Details

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Author : Brett Sills

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From Reader Review My Sweet Saga for online ebook

Clinton Festa says

Hilarious and smart. It's rare that you get a book as humorous yet as smart and insightful as My Sweet Saga. I'd best compare it to Confederacy of Dunces (Pulitzer Prize winner). The characters are vivid, the humor is original, and the main character doesn't go through your typical "progression" like most novels attempt. In some sense it is both a regression and a progression, which to watch occurring simultaneously was something I don't know if I've ever seen done before. As funny as it is, it still has the depth to stay with you while you're not reading it. Highly recommended.

Vered says

Brilliant. I don't have enough stars to give out. Yup: that's how good this one is. Seriously. Brandon is about to get married in a few weeks to a dominating lady he doesn't think he loves, but he's too lazy to do anything about it. This is the story of just how much can happen between a dinner invite with his eccentric father and the wedding day. Hint: a lot. This book takes 'laugh out loud' to a whole new level. Through the quirky and humorous perspective of the groom-to-be, we see how insane the 'normal' really is, and how maybe to be happy, we have to go just a little bit crazy along the way. I highly recommend this.

Grace says

Author Brett Sill's debut novel, My Sweet Saga, is a laugh out loud hilarious romp through the tribulations of being an almost 30 year old guy in a lame, dead end job, engaged to a girl who is about as deep as a puddle, faced with a lifetime of silence and hatred from his disapproving future in-laws, estranged from his lottery winning father who paid his mother to leave him, and only one friend to speak of who only speaks about his toddler son's toilet training incidents.

While the book may be hysterical, it also packs an emotional punch. Author Brett Sills eloquently captures the twenty something life these days. He has a wonderful and engaging voice that jumps off the page. The narrative made this 453 page book a quick read. It's downright difficult to not get hooked into this fast paced story. You really never know what you are going to get on the next page.

Brandon, the novel's loveable yet somewhat boneheaded protagonist, is stuck in the late twenties rut. Life isn't what he thought it would be. He's the token white guy working for a predominately black television station where he sells ad space on billboards for shows like Honey Buns. He is whipped by his publicist fiance Clarissa who makes him get out of bed at 6 a.m. to buy her tampons so she doesn't get Toxic Shock Syndrome. He doesn't have any close friends to speak of except for a guy at work who is also up for the same promotion that he is, a promotion that Brandon doesn't really want but he knows it would make Clarissa happy. Somewhere in the back of Brandon's mind, he knows that this life trajectory is no good, but he doesn't have the gumption to make any changes, probably because it's easier to go with things than it would be to strike out on his own. Who can't relate to life not being what they thought it would be? I know I can. These emotions were raw, real. They were my own, just presented in a different way.

Then Brandon receives a phone call from his estranged father. His father won the lottery four years ago, gave Brandon's mom 20 million to leave him, then took off to jet around the world entertaining himself with

women, booze, and who knows what else. Brandon's father poses an intriguing invitation: Go with him to Sweden, all expenses paid. What's the catch? Brandon needs to pretend to be an astronaut for NASA during a dinner with a Swedish dignitary. Brandon had no intention of going. He wasn't crazy or all that thrilled at the prospect of spending time with his father. When he told Clarissa the story of the phone call, she forbid him to go. So what did Brandon do? He went. (I would have done the same thing.)

You know how people say that there can be a defining moment in your life? Brandon's decision to get on the plane to Stockholm Sweden changed his life forever. Instead of dazzling the Swedish dignitary with all of the bullshit he planned on pulling out of his ass about being an astronaut, Brandon took off with his daughter, the beautiful and mysterious Saga. Saga reminded Brandon of what it was like to live, have fun, and to just be himself and be liked for it. She was a competitive air hockey player, she had no problem stealing go carts while wearing a sumo wrestler costume, and she was easy to talk to and actually listened to what Brandon had to say. In the heat of the moment, Brandon proposes to Saga before leaving to return home to Los Angeles.

Back home, Brandon is faced with quite the dilemma. His wedding to Clarissa is a couple of weeks away and as soon as he gets back home, he falls right back into that mid twenties rut. It's easy to break free when you are in uncharted territory, but it's incredibly difficult to break free when the chains that bind you to your own version of hell sleep in the same bed and pay your rent. He seems relieved yet dismayed that Saga has no way to contact him in LA, but if this time is like all of their encounters in Stockholm, she'll find him.

Does Saga find Brandon in LA? Does Brandon marry Clarissa and stare at his mother in law's manhands for the rest of his life? Does Brandon figure out why his father wanted him to go to Sweden in the first place? You'll have to read the book to find out. Trust me, you won't be disappointed. On a scale of one (I hated it!) to five (I loved it!), I give Brett Sill's My Sweet Saga a five. It's easily one of the best fiction books I've read this year.

This review originally appeared on Feeding My Book Addiction: <http://feedingmybookaddiction.blogspot...>

Sara says

This book was hilarious!! I absolutly loved it! I sat in the lunch room at work laughing like an idiot! Great characters, fun writing. Highly recommend!

Erin M says

If you are looking for a fun, quick (despite the 455 page count), witty book, sprinkled with tons of pop culture references (who doesn't love a good Mike Tyson Punch Out recall?), then I recommend you pick up My Sweet Saga by Brett Sills. This is Sills' first book, and it's filled with nonstop action, cursing, transatlantic adventures, love triangles, family drama, and even a terrorist wreaking havoc on Los Angeles billboards.

A quick synopsis:

At nearly 30 years old, Brandon is barely able to make it through life, much less enjoy it. He is weeks away from what should be one of the happiest days of his life, his wedding day to his fiancée, Clarissa, but his

attention is distracted when his estranged, erratic and oddly eccentric father suddenly reappears with a bizarre demand: to accompany him to Stockholm, Sweden, where they will meet a man who he claims will change their lives.

Desperate for even a brief escape from his reality, Brandon reluctantly goes with his father, ready for a disaster. But his life changes completely the moment his eyes meet the mysterious Swedish man's daughter, Saga. On a cobblestone street in the middle of Stockholm, Brandon reawakens to life, though struggles to navigate the messy love triangle with Saga and his fiancée, which includes multiple arrests, hospital stays, terrorist bombs, acts of heroism and foolishness, family secrets and even a bit of public nudity.

Sills writes his characters boldly and without apology - from Clarissa to Brandon's father, Saga to Brandon himself - his honesty in telling Brandon's story, even if not always flattering or likeable, results in a real novel that is easily relatable. Sills' writing style is casual, and though some may feel it is crude at times, I found it to be without pretense.

One thing that I did find a bit disappointing was the way Sills wrapped up the novel - it seemed just a bit hurried and neatly tied up, I felt like I wanted a bit more explanation, especially in Brandon's situation with Saga, and the whole plotline with his father.

I will definitely be on the lookout for other work in the future from Sills, and in the meantime, checking in on his blog from time to time.

Lainy says

Blurb from Goodreads

At nearly 30 years old, Brandon is barely able to make it through life, much less enjoy it. He is weeks away from what should be one of the happiest days of his life, his wedding day to his fiancée, Clarissa, but his attention is distracted when his estranged, erratic and oddly eccentric father suddenly reappears with a bizarre demand: to accompany him to Stockholm, Sweden, where they will meet a man who he claims will change their lives.

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My Review

I don't know what word I could use to describe this book, crazy maybe?. Brandon hasn't had a great relationship with his dad for 4 years since he wins millions on the lottery. Now his dad has called and wants him to drop everything and come on a short trip with him to Sweden. With Brandon due to get married in the next few weeks it is the last thing he should be doing. The trip reveals some truths about his father, his past and his own life that will change everything.

The start of this book had me totally confused, I couldn't follow what was going on with Brandon and his dad as his dad wasn't forthcoming with why the trip was happening or anything else he asked. The same with the encounter with Saga for the first half of the story, evasive answers or blatant ignoring. There is a lot of

swearing and crude/graphic descriptions and one of the characters is very offensive and quite racist so I would say if your easily offended this is not the book for you.

However I am glad I stuck with it as once you get through the bad language and confusion it is actually quite a good story. There is a lot of humour (adult mostly) throughout the book and the end really brings the story together. The only thing I would say and I have moaned about it before is I wanted more however maybe the author is keeping us hanging and going to bring it out for a second book :D 3/5 for me this time.

Brett Sills says

if the president can vote for himself, I guess I can give myself a nice review? :)

Luke Young says

I loved this book and the author's (or main character's) self-deprecating style. I've read interviews this author has given where he explains that this story means a lot to him and you can tell. The emotion comes pouring out on the page (or screen). An excellent debut novel. Full of laugh out loud moments, surprises and vibrant characters. I highly recommend this book.

Aimee Seligstein says

The main character was completely unlikable. I don't have any sympathy for him. The author does make some attempts at humor, but since I didn't care about the main character, it was hardly redeemable.

Rick F. says

"At nearly 30 years old, Brandon is barely able to make it through life, much less enjoy it. He is weeks away from what should be one of the happiest days of his life, his wedding day to his fiancée, Clarissa, but his attention is distracted when his estranged, erratic and oddly eccentric father suddenly reappears with a bizarre demand: to accompany him to Stockholm, Sweden, where they will meet a man who he claims will change their lives."

What a wonderfully hilarious and well developed character study Brett Sills has created in MY SWEET SAGA! There are many laugh out loud moments, many characters that are so exceptional in their very oddness that the reader is in for the literary ride of a lifetime!

Brandon is the lead character..a man who has been more of an observer of life than a participant- yet that is soon to change! His father, long estranged is a character so full of quirks and eccentricities that I felt this is a character I REALLY REALLY LIKE! (Appologies to Sally Field)

This is very much a literary novel, with an over-arching plot, and many subplots, all combining seamlessly to

produce a novel that is part Hiassen, Part Elmore Leonard, part Thurber, part Pratchett and all Brett Sills- a writer to read and to watch for!!

A JAMES MASON COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB MUST READ

RICK FRIEDMAN
FOUNDER
THE JAMES MASON COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB

Janice says

Hysterically funny, well developed characters....A story with HEART! HIGHLY recommend!!!!

Niina says

More at For The Love of Reading!

Brandon is a perfectly normal guy or so it seems at first, he's Jewish, dead allergic to cilantro and has a cracking relationship with his Chinese 'Hollywood publicist' fiancée. Brandon's dad is a lottery winner and a total douchebag racist who disowned Brandon and who's antics with Tiger Woods lead Brandon to pretend to work for NASA and travel to Sweden where he unexpectedly gathers a little fame and even more notoriety until they (Sweden) actually have to ship him off the whole country. Which leads to one of the funniest openings scenes I've ever read in a book!

Sill's writing is totally witty and funny and I more than ten times laughed out loud. Brandon is portrait as this frustrated with his life but intriguing normal guy who gets over his head.

I found the language bit crude, but then again it fit perfectly within the book, Brandon's father was annoying, his fiancée had him so whipped I was cringing reading it but what I did love when he reached Sweden! With all the Sweden detail like Ace of Base (I use to be a fan when I was in fourth grade, and sang All That She Wants with my bestie to our hairbrushes on overnight stays... ummm yeah...) The Old Town and street names to name few make me all giddy inside, considering I've visited Stockholm yearly since I've been 3 and its fun to see sort of American view of it. Not to mention a seriously fun one!

Ummm, it's very difficult and my swedish language teacher's favourite way to torture us student in the 7th grade.

This book had me in stiches! Extremely funny with a nice touch of dry humor evened out.

I'd recommend this book to people with a good sense of humor and loose attitude on what is appropriate to joke about and what is not. And if you live in Scandinavia, you will be wanting to read this!

Amy says

Brandon is an average guy with a less than average life. He's struggling to accept what the future holds for him; a meaningless job, an upcoming marriage he's not sure he wants and disapproving, impending in-laws that constantly remind him that he is not nor never will be good enough for their daughter.

As he attempts to focus on what should be the happiest time of his life, his marriage to Clarissa, Brandon's extremely wealthy yet absent father suddenly reappears, insisting that Brandon accompany him on a spur of the moment trip to Sweden to meet a mysterious man that will supposedly change their lives forever. Although Brandon is reluctant, he gives into his father's demand, prepares himself for the worst and goes to Stockholm. But things don't go as badly as he anticipated... actually, it's quite the opposite. Brandon meets Saga. A beautiful, Swedish woman (obviously not his intended bride) that steals his heart and shows him that there is more to life than just suffering through it.

My Sweet Saga is unique. Witty and genuinely heartfelt. Exciting and emotional. I can honestly say that it has been a long time since a story has impacted me the way this book did. It was written from a guy's POV which produced a truthful and refreshing take on love and life and let me just say this book is beyond hilarious. The author definitely has a brilliant sense of humor. There were so many different parts throughout that had me cracking up... out loud.

Brandon's dialogue is extremely blunt at times, uncensored and brutally honest and perhaps a bit shocking when you first begin reading, but it's one of the main reasons I enjoyed this book so much. I LOVED that I finally got to read a book that focused on love, sex, romance, humor and just life in general, written solely from a guy's perspective. It was very... insightful in my opinion. I mean what woman wouldn't be curious to dive into a man's thoughts and opinions on those topics? I know I certainly was! So if you're looking for a story full of strong and believable characters, a fully relateable plot that will engage you from cover to cover, an exciting journey through the beautiful streets of Stockholm, Sweden, family secrets, a complicated love triangle and some awesome, random top 10 lists, then this book is for you.

An amazing debut novel. I'll be eagerly awaiting more from Brett Sills. Highly recommend.

Katherine says

Umm. Wow. What to say. Unbelievably funny, because this book could be a movie. I need to read more books written from a guy's point of view. Or maybe just from THIS guy's view. From the first scene, I got the idea that this story was going to be like nothing I've read before. Outstanding and intelligent writing, with humor to take the edge off. Seriously, I am floored that guys really think and feel like this. Even though the ending was what I wanted, it still surprised me. I really hope this guy keeps writing, because I think I love him.

Jennifer says

Brandon's sure somebody would want his life - he just knows it's not him. He's about to marry Clarissa (never mind that her father's a racist), he's got a job (where he's the token white guy), and his little-seen father just won the lottery. So when his dad announces they're going to Sweden to meet the man who will change their lives, he's ready for adventure. Nothing big, just impersonating a NASA employee, trying to

become an astronaut, and a little public nudity. And then he meets Saga, the mystery man's daughter, and suddenly Brandon's juggling two fiancées on two continents - life just got a lot more interesting.

This is a very funny book, full of sarcastic wit (we are fans of that at Jenaissance). The humour can be crude at times, but it is used to good advantage in the story. Readers should be aware that the book contains strong language, and several characters are quite racist. The wording can become uncomfortable at times, but is appropriate in context. The story does get off to a slow start, but picks up after a while.

It's refreshing to read a rom-com from the male perspective, especially when you realize that they're just as clueless of those of us of the fairer sex. Life is messy, and everything can change in a single moment. And being a man, Brandon never sees it coming until it's run him over.

This isn't a book for the faint of heart or the delicate of sensibilities - it's real and raw. Those that persevere will find themselves rewarded by good storytelling. It's all in the details here, especially the wonderful depiction of Sweden (Ace of Base, anyone?).
