



Sunshine and Rain

M. Mabie

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Some things never changed: when it rained too much it was bound to flood, work on our farm was never done, and no woman alive compared to Sunny Wilbanks. She wasn't just the town sweetheart with hair like the sun and a golden voice that drove me crazy. She was also the older woman who'd never seen me as anything more than a scrawny, lovesick kid.

Then again, some things were never meant to stay the same. Because after college, I wasn't how she remembered, and the older I got the more I enjoyed women chasing me.

Turned out it was easy to forget about the rain when I was tangled up with pure sunshine, and there was no place I would have rather been. I just had to convince her I'd known what I was doing all along.

Sunshine and Rain is the second standalone novel in the City Limits series. It follows new characters as they navigate their May-December-ish, second chance romance. Welcome to Wynne.

Sunshine and Rain Details

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From Reader Review Sunshine and Rain for online ebook

Anne OK says

Absolutely marvelous! This story will lift your spirits with a positive mood-boosting package of humor, wit and love. Once I started reading, I devoured this story in one sitting. From a new-to-me-author, I was hooked and immediately started searching out more of M. Mabie's work.

Fresh and authentic, this author knows just how to show readers a really good time. Mabie packs this dilly with intelligence, wit, and an addictive romance into one fantastic read! I loved the bold characters, the slow-building yet steamy romance, and so many feel-goods that I lost myself in a happy place. If you're a fan of small town romances, an absolute feast awaits you on each tantalizing page.

Welcome to Wynne! Grab your favorite drink, settle into your comfy chair while Sunny Wilbanks and Rhett Caraway take you on a trip down memory lane. It's a story about a thirteen-year old boy who had his heart stolen by an eighteen-year old high school cheerleader years ago, and the memories that have refused to be forgotten.

Cougar Alert! Sunny continually refers to herself as a "panther" – does that mean she's a fake "cougar" or what the heck? Me thinks she worries too much about a five-year age difference. Okay, so maybe her number is tiny bit bigger – 28 -- and his is only 23. But, so what? Both are young and only in their twenties and neither have ever been married or had children. Isn't there an old saying that goes something like this -- "Age is just a number." Come on Sunny – open your eyes! This guy is a forever kinda guy – and he definitely has his eyes set on you for his happily-ever-after.

Every second of this read is delectably delicious with humor and a little twist of an older woman-younger man relationship. Yea, yea, it's a theme that has long been taboo, heavily influenced by the Freudian notion that the older women are mother substitutes or "cradle robbers." But our hero doesn't see it that way. He's been in love with this "older" woman most of his life. And he isn't easily deterred. Gotta love a guy who knows what he wants and goes for it – and in the most creative and delightful ways possible. Rhett rules in the romance category!

From Rhett at age thirteen –

I know everyone thinks I'm crazy, but I don't care. I'm in love with Sunny. And someday, I'm going to build her a huge farm and I'm going to marry her and make her smile every day.

Rhett heads upward to topping my list of favorite heroes. He's quite a guy. A long-distance runner and a farmer with a college education, loyal, and a hero that oozes wicked charm and sex appeal stealing your heart the moment you first meet him.

From Sunny at age twenty-eight –

He wasn't just the kind of guy I wanted in my future, he was becoming the exact one. The only one I could see there.

Sunny could be a little cray-cray at times – but of the good variety. She's adorably cute and kind with a quirky sense of humor and is a hard worker. She made for an ideal heroine.

They may be five years apart in age, but it really didn't matter because they are an imperfectly perfect match!

Now that I've found this new-to-me author, who I think is a whizbang writer, I'd like to pay it forward. Here are just a few of the reasons why I think you should be reading her books, too. Amazing writing skills that include – imagination, creativity and characterization. Need I say more?

Okay, here's a little extra. The characters were amazing, delightful, positive and kind and gentle and full of down-home goodness. A burst of sunshine even in the rain! Plus, there's just enough angst combined with charm, steam and fun to keep me interested and devoted. They had me smiling from start to finish!

A super-duper treat – so good you'll want a repeat!

Written on the town of Wynne's water tower present day –

Sunny loves Rhett.

Barbara? says

Ten years ago a 13 year old boy thought he was in love. He followed the 18 year old cheerleader around, bought her gifts and declared his love. When it was time for her to go to college, she let him down easy and told him one day he'd find the one he was meant to be with. Now, that 13 year old boy is a man and he's come back to town. He's not the same boy and she's not the same girl. Now they're adults. Were they always meant to be?

Rhett was an amazing hero. He was very mature for 23. He thought he had loved Sunny his whole life.

“I know everyone thinks I'm crazy, but I don't care. I'm in love with Sunny. And someday, I'm going to build her a huge farm and I'm going to marry her and make her smile every day.”~13 year old Rhett

But he soon realizes his 13 year old love is not the same as when you are an adult.

“As a kid, I thought she was pretty— and she was. But as a man, seeing the woman she'd become, I realized I'd been wrong all along. She was gorgeous.”

“Here I'd been infatuated with this girl my whole life, and I was quickly learning that maybe I'd been focusing on all the wrong parts of her.”

I love how he decided he was going to treat her the way a MAN should and show her he was not just some kid home from college.

“I’d show her what it was like to be treated the right way by a man who respected her body, her mind, and her heart.”

Sunny was a sweet, kind and funny heroine. I really liked her for the most part. She struggled in the beginning with seeing Rhett as an adult and not a middle schooler. But she begins to realize, maybe he was just who she had been looking for all along. He just needed to grow up.

“He wasn’t just the kind of guy I wanted in my future, he was becoming the exact one. The only one I could see there.”

While I enjoyed this book, it wasn’t a 5 star read for me. Why? One thing was I got tired of Sunny constantly thinking she was old. Twenty-eight is NOT old.

“It was confirmed: I was an old maid who’d lost her allure. A green penny left out in the rain for too long. Washed up. I was in a funk.”

Another thing was she constantly thought she was too old for Rhett. Again, 5 years is not that big of a deal when you’re adults. And lastly, I grew tired of the back and forth between the two. I LOVE alpha heroes who take charge and go after their women. While Rhett was delicious and definitely alpha, I would have liked to see him push her a little more and well, just take what was his.

“I’ve always been yours. It’s about time you caught up.”~Rhett

Overall, though the positive outweighed the negative. It was a sweet slow-burn of two people who the universe had plans for all along.

“I was proud to be with her. I’d never been more proud of anything else in my life, I was certain. No first place finish. No sense of accomplishment had ever compared to how it felt every time she asked me for a kiss.”~Rhett

“He was everything I’d ever really wanted in a man. Equal parts responsible and reckless. Smart and sexy. A good man. The best. He was all mine.”~Sunny

◆*Arianna◆* says

If you love small town romance novels you don't want to miss this one. Once again, this author made me fell in love with the small town and these fantastic characters from the very beginning. "Sunshine and Rain" was another wonderful read by M. Mabie and a great addition to this series. Like the previous installment in the series, this second installment was sweet, fun, swoony and low in angst and drama and overall a pretty gipping feel good story.

"I wanted to feel that rush of excitement when I met The One. The One who'd make me forget there were only 3,400 people in my life because I was the most important one—to him. I wanted my love life to be something extraordinary."

Sunny is a twenty-eight years old woman who had lived in the small town of Wynne all her life. Like all her friends who are paired off or married, she wants to find someone who loves her and settle down, but in a small town is not that easy to find someone decent.

"As a kid, I thought she was pretty—and she was. But as a man, seeing the woman she'd become, I realized I'd been wrong all along. She was gorgeous."

Rhett used to be in love with Sunny...when he was 13 years old. He used to fallow her like a puppy, send her flowers, writing her love notes and declaring his love in all kind of ways. The only problem was that Sunny was older than him...five years older. Everything changed for Rhett back then when Sunny went off to college. Ten years later, Rhett return home to Wynne only to find out Sunny is as gorgeous and funny as ever and most of all, single. All he wants now is to show Sunny that he's not a boy anymore, that he's a man, a man who has no desire to be turned down anymore by anyone.

"There was something different, something new behind it, though. It wasn't only kindness, the kind she'd always shown me. Not anymore. There was chemistry. Curiosity. Attraction. And it was coming from her."

Sunny can't believe that handsome, young man who seems so indifferent to her is Rhett, the boy who used to fallow her everywhere. The "new" Rhett is gorgeous with a body to die for and all she wants to do is to lick him from head to toe.

"He wasn't just the kind of guy I wanted in my future, he was becoming the exact one. The only one I could see there."

After reading and enjoying the first installment in the series, my expectations for this one were really high. I'm happy to say "Sunshine and Rain" was simply awesome, well written and like any other good small town romance it gave me all the feels. I really enjoyed the storyline and how everything between these two characters progressed. Their slow burn relationship was well done, the two main characters' background well

developed, the romance aspect making me smile and swoon many times as the story unfolded.

I liked the two main characters together, but also individually. Sunny was a fun, relatable heroine I really enjoyed...for the most part. Her constant reminders of how she's five years older than Rhett got on my nerves one time or two, but overall I found her character to be pretty endearing and well portrayed. Rhett stole the show for me here. He was a wonderful hero I simply loved. If you like sweet, thoughtful, caring heroes, then you will totally love Rhett. He was really amazing with Sunny and the way he treated her and cherished her were really heartwarming.

"I couldn't do better than Sunny Wilbanks. There was no better. She was it."

Overall, this was a fantastic read that made me smile and swoon until the end with a lovely romance, two engaging main characters and just a little bit of angst and drama.

Find me on:

Libby Harrison says

I hadn't realised the H was so much younger than the h – this is not normally my thing as I genuinely believe (on the whole) guys mature slower than girls. But aside from the 5 year age difference I DNF'd because I just couldn't get into the story

Kiki says

Read Alex ?'s 4-star review of Sunshine and Rain by M. Mabie
<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Sounds like a fabulous book, I'd suggest giving it a go, but I'm sitting this one out!

Self note:

I can look past hero's hookups, but I usually draw a line at women doing chasing, specially when they're insecure.

I'll go sit on the corner of shame for such anti feminist thoughts.

Quirky Omega says

Detailed review later.

For now

1) First impression

Great book cover - Check

Interesting blurb - check

Interesting premise - check

2) plot - check

Characters - so sweet and heartwarming - check

Writing - check

Did I love reading the book - check check check!

April Symes says

This is book 2 in this City Limits series. Started first with Roots and Wings and now we have Sunshine and Rain. In this story, we have Sunny and Rhett. They knew each other we find out before this story even begin. They have some serious history We find out their history as the author sprinkles their back story out throughout the book. I was hooked immediately from the beginning for their story was intriguing and emotional.

Rhett fell in love with Sunny way back in middle school but she was a bit older (he was in 7th grade 13 yo to her 18 yo senior in HS) and she told him it just wouldn't work. Now he is back in Wynne after he finished College and Sunny is wondering "what if" they had. Despite the huge age gap, There is this huge attraction and the chemistry between them is intense and it is illicit. Whenever they are around each other, they feel this strong pull toward each other. Their story is told from alternating POV's and we get to see how they are feeling, what they are thinking which is fantastic. Also, we meet some terrific secondary characters who add depth and humor to this story. Also we get to catch up with previous characters from book 1. Do Sunny and Rhett end up together? I do not want to spoil anything but I have to say, this was one lovely and beautiful story told with some fantastic and intense hot scenes which added to the touching scenes written by the author. Rhett is a great alpha male –he has loved this one woman for a long time and when he finally has the chance, then there are other issues that come his way. Then we have Sunny-she is a sassy and sexy woman who is wondering what she is doing. Her humorous look at life and love make this a fantastic and realistic love story. M Mabrie has done it again with her phenomenal hit.

My rating: 4.7 stars ****

"I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book in exchange for an honest review***"

Alex ? says

3.5 stars

Light, funny, drama-free, safe (for me).

Very unusual setting:

he had a crush on her for years and since he was younger (only 5 years), she didn't pay much attention to him. Yes, you read it right: he had a crush on her and she was unaffected *lol* How awesome is that?

I like books with older heroines. And in this case the hero was more mature than her, so it didn't bother me at all.

And I never doubted why she didn't love him back in the past – she was 18 and he was 13. Common!

At first I wasn't a big fan of the hero. Some of his thoughts about his past women (he wasn't a virgin and it was ok!!!) were quite 'at-my-limit-of-patience', but then he stopped to be a drama-queen and I liked his character a lot: he was strong, but vulnerable; he was sweet, but tough; and he loved her without any doubt!!!

Well, after the heroine told me repeatedly she was *ancient* at 28, I took extra time and examined myself in a mirror. If she were *ancient* at 28, does it make me to a mummy at 36? *lol*

(view spoiler)

Actually, heroine's self-doubts and the fact, that she chased him a bit, didn't sit well with me. But, apart from the panther-comment and their 'fight' at their friends' barbecue party, it was played nice. She wasn't my typical favorite strong badass, but she was ok, really ok (and not a doormat)!

Overall the book has a good message: the hero treated his woman always with respect, and it's not a common fact in romance novels, *unfortunately*.

My favorite in this series!

P.S. About my extra time in front of the mirror: I look extremely good! Gotta love myself!

Loz says

cute, lighthearted and sweet. every now and then you need one of these romances. i loved the first book and i am so glad this was just as good. loved the premise of this story. ever since rhett was 13 years old he has held a special kind of love for sunny wilbanks but with a 5 year age difference it just didn't happen for him. he gave her gifts, sent her flowers, wrote his feelings on the town water tower but she went off to college and he had to go on with his life. it was actually real sweet. cue 10 years later and 23 year old rhett returns home to wynne and when he bumps into sunny out and about, she's just as beautiful and sweet as he's always thought. when sunny sees rhett and the man he's grown into, cue the reader swoon.

i liked the small town feel of this story. i adored the way rhett treated sunny. the only thing i would have liked to see less of is sunny's constant reminders of how she's too old and he's too young for her. i get this was her hang up but it was annoying after a few times as it was only 5 years. 28 is not old or spinstery.. well not in my neck of the woods. regardless this series is a fun one, it's romantic and humorous but still brings the sexy too.

quick read with no angst or heaviness in sight. perfect weekend book. i hope to see the series continue on.

Jennifer Kyle says

4.5 STARS

I simply adored the backstory about how the hero as a seventh grade boy had such a massive crush on the heroine a cheerleader/high school senior. The five year age difference as children was too great for Sunny Wilbanks to have taken sweet Rhett Caraway and his grand gestures seriously.

"Gross! He was in seventh grade. I was a senior. Come on, dude. That's not cool."

In the present, Sunny Wilbanks is surrounded by all her friends settling down while she's still trying to find Mr. Right. When Rhett Caraway now a HOT twenty-three year old man returns home from college our Sunny's head sure does spin at the sight of him!

Rhett Caraway is an amazing hero and I'm placing him on my Book Boyfriend Shelf here on Goodreads. He was swoonworthy, stoic, sensitive and very sexy. His childhood crush and the protection he had up when Sunny approaches is superbly written. He's simply WONDERFUL!

"Just as I blinked and worked up the gumption to do it, he said, "Fuck it," and lifted me up with his free arm. His mouth yet to touch mine, we were eye to eye. Hazel to blue. "You can kiss me first tomorrow, Sunny. I cannot wait any damn longer."

Sunny's obsession with their age difference though five years is nothing as they are now both in their twenties drove me crazy. She mentions the age difference and a term for herself "panther" way too much.

There are so many scenes and quotes that I adored in this story and though Sunny may drive a reader nuts with her thinking there's someone more suitable for Rhett or that he hasn't been around enough. This story was a good read that left a huge smile on my face the unrequited love of their past and the hard fall in the present was simply SPOT ON!

"Sunny loves Rhett"

DJ Sakata says

Favorite Quotes:

New hot men in Wynne were like Halley's Comet: they only came around once in a lifetime.

I didn't want to be the old chick at the bar, dammit. I looked around, and I wasn't the oldest, by far, but I was one of only two women around my age who were there and single. BethAnne didn't count though because she was a ho.

Earlier that night, he'd told me my dancing looked like a frog on a hot sidewalk. Then he'd told me he was running home to poop - but he'd be back. We were definitely just friends.

It wasn't fair to other men how attractive he was. An image of him shirtless, mowing my yard, came to mind. I chalked it up to early onset panther syndrome and bent over at the hip to catch a breath that rushed through me, the image having left me winded.

She obviously didn't know what she was talking about. A man's grill is an extension of himself. There's a bond there. I swear it... 'Mine isn't just any grill Sunny. It's The Grill. I can't just be flinging my meat around on any old burner.'

After the lawn chairs were unfolded and the card table was set up, the yard was almost redneck romantic.

My Review:

I treasured and adored every page of this refreshingly original, fun, and delightful book. I was in dire need of a sweet and drama-llama free read and I must say I was shocked beyond belief to find just that from M. Mabie. This was not at all what I expected from her given the constant angst, conflict, and tension found in her Wake series - although I also loved those books to pieces. But I was beguiled, enchanted, and fell into a total swoon over Rhett and Sunny. I often laughed aloud, barked, and chortled as I read. Rhett was THE perfect BBF, his patience, the care he took, and the thoughtfulness and creativeness of his efforts to please Sunny were so sweet and tender that it stung my eyes. I relished the tenderness and sweetness of their love story, the irreverent humor, snappy banter, and slyly clever observations and insights. The writing was crisp, humorous, and unfailingly engaging. Ms. Mabie's characters were just adorable, well fleshed out, endearing, amusing, and lovable. I hated to leave Wynne but hope and pray Ms. Mabie extends a return invitation soon. I will save her some time and just RSVP right now. I'm thoughtful like that...

Livros A Go-Go ~Joyci ~ says

"Sunny loves Rhett"

Sabe quando você pega um livro qualquer na biblioteca e sai no lucro? Foi isso que aconteceu com esse

daqui, cuja sinopse nem revela muito do que esperar da história.

Esse foi o primeiro livro da autora que li e além de achar adorável pela simplicidade, já nas primeiras linhas me conquistou por abordar um dos meus fetiches literários, romance com a mulher mais velha que o mocinho! <3

Anos atrás Sunny tinha como seu maior admirador um garoto 5 anos mais novo, o Rhett. Ele se declarava à líder de torcida sempre que podia e não media esforços para isso, deixando até mesmo toda a população da cidade ciente do seu amor. Então a garota parte para a faculdade deixando o garoto de coração partido para trás, uns bons anos se passam e agora é a vez de Rhett voltar à cidade depois de concluir os estudos. Agora ele tem 23 anos e Sunny, que está cada vez mais sentindo vontade de estar em um relacionamento sério com objetivo final de casar e ter filhos, cresce os olhos para o antigo admirador mesmo que ele não demonstre mais nenhum interesse nela. Rhett não é mais o mesmo e age com cautela ao redor da garota que no passado o rejeitou e evita até mesmo trocar qualquer palavra com ela.

Esse é mais um livro que demonstra como um argumento simples e sem dramas profundos pode ser bem desenvolvido nas mãos de um autor. Todos os elementos da história foram bem apresentados e executados, como o fato de Sunny se sentir diferente por estar rodeada de colegas casados e com filhos à caminho, os fofoqueiros e piadistas de plantão, a simplicidade da cidadezinha, o jeito comedido e desconfiado de Rhett ao redor do seu "Raio de Sol e o complexo que Sunny tem com sua idade.

A obsessão de Sunny com sua idade foi um tanto exagerada mas um fato que gostei de sua personalidade é o respeito que ela sempre teve com a paixão de Rhett. E o interesse dela pelo moço no auge dos seus 23 anos, o medo dele estar interessado em uma ilusão com a ex líder de torcida do colégio e o fato dela ter que lutar para chamar atenção e baixar as guardas dele.

Mesmo tendo colocado Sunny em um pedestal no passado, agora Rhett é diferente e mais maduro. Ele tem experiência com outros relacionamentos mas não é aquele garanhão detestável que lemos em alguns outros livros. É um rapaz sério para sua idade e possui muitas inseguranças ao redor de Sunny e o repentino interesse dela por ele.

Agora mais maduros e na casa dos 20 anos eles tem a oportunidade de desenvolver um relacionamento e é isso que acompanhamos em Sunshine and Rain, um livro simples, com personagens comuns e gostosinho de ler entre um drama profundo e outro. É aquele livro para curar ressaca sem desperdiçar o tempo.

* _ *

~Nichole~ Sizzling Pages Romance Reviews says

oh my heavenly hero .. what sweet sexy creative juices must've helped this author when she gave life to Rhett . What an adorable , sweet sexy man. What started out as a one sided crush in his childhood later became the love story that we all hope for. While this doesn't fit our safety standards of nobody after meeting ,you absolutely can not blame either character because he was 13 and she was 18. She left him after patiently guiding him to move on. She felt absolutely zero romantic feelings for him because face it that would have been gross at his age. Fast forward ten years and oh sexy Rhett is all man. Just one kiss that took its sweet time was more erotic than a lot of sexy books out there. The build up of a decade. The want on each part. Oh my. This couple stole my heart .

I'm so in love with this absolutely endearing small town and its larger than life characters. The low angst and the loyal love is so heartwarming. Fan for life .. can't wait for more. Maybe Aaron or Dean ..but please write

more soon.

safety info

#safe for current story. Absolutely nobody can fault their past

~Steph K~ says

What a great refreshing, light read.... loved this story!

1-Click Addict Support Group says

The first thing you should probably know is that there's not a lot of angst here. If you're looking for something to twist your heart up and shake it around until you don't even know what you're feeling anymore – turn yourself around and go pick up *Bait*. You won't find that kind of gut-wrenching angst here.

Instead you'll find a sweet slow burn that just gets brighter and hotter as the book goes on. An adorable – no, I mean *adorable* back story that may cause you to grin unabashedly like a crazy person at your Kindle because my God – has there ever been anything more cute and sweet and feelsy? You'll find flirty, light-hearted banter and some sizzling heat. There's just enough conflict to tug at your heartstrings, but nothing that ever takes away from the “feel-good” vibe that this book has from start to finish.

God.

I loved every minute of it. EVERY. MINUTE.

I *needed* this book. I needed something to fill my heart. I needed Rhett Caraway in my life. You guys? He's the best. The BEST. From the moment he showed up in this book, I was completely smitten and my heart is still recovering from all the things he did to it. Good things. Happy things. Sensual things. GAH! He was just perfect!

And Sunny? Okay, so occasionally I found myself rolling my eyes at her inner turmoil – but I also got it. It's not so much about who she is, but where she lives that causes her to be the way she is. And make no mistake – the way she is? Is still pretty fantastic. She's adorable and funny and just quirky enough to have stolen the tiny piece of my heart that Rhett didn't get his claws into.

These two were just fun. And heartfelt. And – seriously so *hot* in this lazy, scintillating, molten-like way that I attribute entirely to the lack of angst. Because there was no high drama, I got to luxuriate in the glow of all these sexy swoony feelings and – man, I didn't want to let go. I could have lived in this book forever, soaking up that small town charm and staying lost in the magic that was Rhett fucking Caraway.

Did I mention that I loved this book?

Loved it.

Over the moon for it.

Grabby hands desperately seeking more time in Wynne now, please! ~ Shelly, 5 Stars
