



Making Him Sweat (Wilinski's, #1)

Meg Maguire

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She's hitting below the belt...

Round 1

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Round 2

In the far corner is former pro boxer Mercer Rowley. He's the only one who can protect his "home"—even if it is a little run-down— from his determined and feisty little opponent. But man, once the gloves come off, his hands just want to touch her everywhere...

Round 3

This matchup is too close to call. But no matter which contender comes out on top, the other is sure to enjoy every minute of it....

Making Him Sweat (Wilinski's, #1) Details

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Author : Meg Maguire

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From Reader Review **Making Him Sweat (Wilinski's, #1)** for online ebook

Sarah says

When Jenna inherits a boxing gym from her estranged father she has no intention of keeping it running but it does give her the perfect opportunity to open the matchmaking agency that she has always dreamed of. She just needs to find a way to run the two businesses together until the end of the year when she can legitimately close the gym. She hadn't planned on having to deal with Mercer though, Mercer has been running the gym since her father got sick and he has plans to give the run down old place a makeover and rebuild it's reputation. He is shocked when his mentor's long lost daughter arrives on the scene saying that she is planning on closing it down. Mercer is prepared to fight for the gym but how can he go against Jenna's wishes when he knows her father would want whatever made her happy?

This is the first book I've ever read by **Meg Maguire** but it definitely won't be the last, I can't wait to continue reading this series and I'm planning on working my way through her back list as soon as possible because I absolutely loved **Making Him Sweat**. I never expected to find myself so attracted to a hot sweaty boxer but Mercer pushed all the right buttons and I completely fell in love with him. Jenna couldn't be more different to Mercer and this is definitely a case of opposites attract but they work so well as a couple and I didn't have the slightest problem believing they could be happy together.

Jenna is a sweet girl with a romantic heart who is looking for her perfect man. She always thought that her father didn't care about her and she blamed the gym and its fighters for taking all of his attention so the last thing she wants is to help keep it running. Financially the gym is struggling and that gives her the perfect excuse to close it and focus on her matchmaking business. She arrives in Boston with a very prejudiced outlook towards the gym and the people who use it but once she meets Mercer and starts to get to know the other guys she starts to realise that her first impressions couldn't have been more wrong. I loved the fact that she is brave enough to admit her mistake and has the guts to do something about it.

Mercer is cocky and arrogant but he is also sexy as hell. I have to include my favourite quote here to prove my point:

"All men think they're great kissers. Just like you think you're the only decent driver on the road."

"Maybe, but I am. Amazing kisser. Dangerously amazing. Your panties would, like, disintegrate, I'm such an awesome kisser."

He says all the right things but he has the skills to back them up and this scene turned into one of the hottest kissing scenes I've read in ages. He was right about the melting panties! As much as I loved Mercer for his banter I loved him even more for the way he was so protective and caring towards Jenna. She arrives on the scene determined to turn his whole world upside down but Mercer never once shows any anger towards her. He is so calm and collected about things even when he is asking for a chance to show her that he can turn the gym around and make it profitable again. I loved the fact that he doesn't try to pressure Jenna into anything, he accepts the choices she makes even when he really doesn't want to. He takes the slow approach to winning her over and it really works for him.

Making Him Sweat has everything I want in a good romance, a great couple with fantastic chemistry who are able to make things work both between the sheets and outside them, scorching hot sex scenes that left me in need of a cold shower and fab side characters who I can't wait to get to know better as the series continues.

If you like your men muscled and powerful and your sex gritty and raw then you're going to love this book. Now I just want to know where I can find myself a guy like Mercer!

I ♥ Bookie Nookie (bookienookiereviews.blogspot.com) says

What happens when the world as you once knew it comes crashing down around you and everything you thought was true about your life turns out to be a big-fat lie?

Jenna Wilinski is a romantic at heart. She is awesome at pairing up perfect love matches for everyone around her, but when it comes to her own love life...not so fantastic. When her estranged father suddenly passes away, she inherits the bedraggled old boxing club that he made into a home for many wayward boys and up and coming fighters, immediately, she knows this is her golden opportunity to fulfill her life long dream of becoming a professional matchmaker. Without much thought, she sets her plans in motion to close the gym and give the site a facelift worthy of an upscale match-making business. What she doesn't count on is being punched in the gut by a strong case of lust when she first lays eyes on former pro-boxer turned boxing coach, Mercer Rowley.

Determined to make her dreams come true, Jenna dons her boxing gloves and intends to rumble with any of the rugged, sweaty male members of the club who attempt to sway her opinion – no matter how charming or sexy they may be. Well, you know what they say: *"the road to hell was paved with good intentions."* When Jenna finally removes the blinders for a moment, she catches a glimpse of what the gym and her father was really all about and begins to see the unrefined and sometimes intimidating fighters in a totally different light.

MAKING HIM SWEAT is the first installment in what I anticipate being a very popular, contemporary romance series. The characters are fantastic! Every last one of them will tug at even the most resistant heartstrings. Go ahead - snatch it up! If you enjoy a good story with a little sport theme thrown in and great chemistry among the characters, I can guarantee you will not be disappointed

*** Copy provided by the author/publisher for an honest review.*

**Reviewed on I ♥ Bookie Nookie Reviews

If you like this type of book, you might enjoy one of these groups. Check us out!

Menage Readers

Erotic Enchants

Bookie Nookie's Erotic Lending Group

Louise says

3.5 stars

So good and dayum that was hot!

And Mercer ahhh such a good fine man, so kind and thoughtful plus he has a fine ripped body through the years of training and bouts of MMA fights, he's a trainer now so sigh and also he's a great kisser and great in bed... Yum the perfect package.

... says

3.5

Meg Maguire has won me over with her endearing, *real* heroes and heroines, and the believable dialogue within her books. Making Him Sweat was no different. I found myself grinning while reading the interaction between Jenna and Mercer. I couldn't get enough of the fun, flirty banter between them and wanted more, more, more.

The first 50% of this book had me sucked in, rooting for Jenna and Mercer's relationship, feeling strongly for these two characters, and even at one point, bringing me to surprising tears.

However, she lost me a bit in the second half. It felt dragged out, something that allowed the tension I felt within the relationship to fizzle. It became too focused on Jenna's match making business and a party rather than what I was there to read--the romance between Jenna and Mercer. Unfortunately, here I think this was a case of more isn't always better. As much as I love full length novels, I actually think this particular story might've been better suited to a novella where the tension could've stayed ramped on high rather than strung along and left by the wayside.

While not my favorite MM book, this was still a cute read, and I loved the realism the author provided with the MMA circuit. Especially after some less than realistic books I've read in the past with heroes that are a bit too...effeminate. I'm excited for book two (Rich and Lindsey, perhaps?), and look forward to reading more in this setting.

Wminbc says

I love fight books...especially where old school boxing meets the more modern MMA style. This cute book had so many great characters and a good old fashion romance. Both Mercer and Jenna were apprehensive about the other due to their predicament: namely Jenna's estranged father who left his gym to Jenna but also left Mercer in charge of the gym and living in his apartment.

As the two dance around each other, they also learn a thing or two about their lives, their relationships with Jenna's father (Mercer's surrogate father) and their futures. I loved how Mercer was so even keeled and calm while Jenna tended to be rash and excitable. I loved how they gave

in to their shared passion and didn't over analyze it, but went with it. And finally, I loved how they were in each others corner when the "fight" is on. That is what makes a relationship and bonds people: a common goal.

As many fellow readers know, I love Harlequin Blaze books. While I hit a few bummers in the fall, this book is a winner! Enjoy!

My review is up!

<http://www.nocturnereads.com/2013/02/...>

Hot little Blaze I will be reviewing for www.nocturnereads.com

Angie Elle says

I have to say that I very much enjoyed the simplicity of this book. It was just two people who were content with their lives finding love when and where they least expected it.

Jenna's inheritance is a piece of property that happens to be the perfect place for her new business venture. It also happens to be a place that Mercer's poured his heart and soul into--a MMA training facility geared toward getting young men off the streets to teach them discipline and turn them away from violence.

Mercer and Jenna were both uncomplicated characters who each had a single focus--their work. When fate brings them together, it upends Mercer's life in a way that could change it forever.

But here's what I like about Mercer--not only can the guy fight, but he can roll with the punches. It would have been so easy to pit these characters against each other and toss in that spark of anger that turns to lust, but I really feel like the author gave us a much better story by having Mercer be so kind and understanding. It was very telling about his character that though his life was about to be upended, he respected his mentor's wishes and did what he could to be there for Jenna.

Jenna's character was incredibly likable as well, because though she breezes into Mercer's life with every right to do whatever she wants with the facility, she's able to see things from his perspective and begins to appreciate what he's doing for these young men.

The sex in this book was hot, and in all honestly, some of the most realistic I've ever read.

Though they fall in love with a matter of weeks, I felt like the pacing was spot on, and the events were so every day that I could picture them in my head as I was reading them.

I loved that on the cover of this book, the hero's hands were wrapped in tape, because it was one of the things Jenna found incredibly sexy about Mercer when he was in the gym. I love it when the cover actually reflects what's behind it!

This was a sweet, tender love story. I'd definitely recommend it if you are looking for a quick, satisfying read!

Mariann {at} Belle's Book Bag says

"You're the Mr. Right that I've been picturing all wrong my whole life." *sigh*

This is another cover that I just love and makes me want to sigh!! lol ;) Meg Maguire is another new-to-me author that I will definitely be looking for more from. She won me over with Making Him Sweat and I am a BIG fan now. I'm not so patiently waiting for the next book in this series!! Rick *sigh* His book is going to be so good and I am hoping to read more about Mercer and Jenna!! Can't wait!!

Mercer Rowley...what a great name!! He is definitely sigh worthy!! I just loved him. His personality won me over from the start~he was so calm and reassuring. Such a soothing male hero that was perfect for Jenna. He was exactly what she needed and I loved the affect he had on her. He protected and supported her so much through out the story and was willing to sacrifice so much for her without even thinking twice about it or how much his life would have to change. He was a great character. I just couldn't help but fall in love with him. He definitely made my heart ache with how much he was willing to sacrifice what he wanted~especially how much he wanted Jenna~to make her happy. He was so sweet without being a pushover or weenie of a hero!! lol I also really liked Jenna. I loved how she eventually came to love the gym and fought for what she wanted. I especially loved that she fought for Mercer and the gym to stay open as she knew how important it was to him. I also loved that she was opening a dating service. Rick wanting to be her client cracked me up. Rick was such a lovable funny character. Jenna's relationship or non~relationship with her father was sad~especially when she found the letters. But I loved how reading those letters better helped her to change her mind and priorities. And of course, I was so rooting for HEA for Mercer and Jenna.

I loved the ending and I'm hoping to read more about Jenna and Mercer through out the continuing series. Mercer was so cute in how he showed Jenna the pamphlet and told her what his plans were for them in the future. They were so much fun to read. They were both such a cute, sweet, funny couple who also had some SPICY HOT sex!! One of my favorite parts is when he drives back in the middle of the night to comfort her because she was upset about the letters!!

A short, sweet, fun read that left me smiling at the end and definitely wanting more. Great way to spend a few hours reading. 5 out of 5 rating.

***ARC provided by NetGalley.

Jill says

Jenna Wilinski has inherited her late father's building and business, *Wilinski's Fight Academy* in Boston. Jenna wants to open up her own upscale matchmaking business in the same building. Mercer Rowley, her father's protégé, business manager and trainer, isn't keen on seeing his or her father's work closed down. But can these two very different businesses co-exist?

This is my fourth novel by Meg Maguire and I really enjoyed it. There's something so lovely and real about her characters and romances. Her dialogue is always believable. Her heroes' characterisations especially, are always so realistic and fleshed-out.

Although a heroine can break a romance for me, she never really makes it. Her heroines do tend to fade somewhat into the background, overshadowed by the hero. Lucky for me I'm a hero-centric reader, and usually too focused on the hero to care. So it is once again in *Making Him Sweat*. Mercer is just such an uncomplicated, yet totally delicious hero.

He was, without a doubt, the most reasonable man she'd ever met.

This is the first in a series and I think perhaps next up will be Rich Estrada, the up-and-coming MMA fighter who Mercer trains. And Lindsey Tuttle, Jenna's assistance.

Making Him Sweat is a low angst, character-driven story, that relies on the building sexual tension rather than manufactured problems to drive the story. It's sexy, humorous, sweet. Well worth reading. A really lovely romance!

Steam: 3

ARC courtesy of Harlequin via NetGalley

Paula says

I will refrain from rating since I didn't finish this one...

I found this book to be really boring. I had a hard time connecting with the characters nor did the story captivate my interest. I couldn't make myself finish this short book. And I really did try. I could see that this story had potential, but I think personally this story just isn't my cuppa.

Jenn Scranton says

****ARC provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review****

4.5 Stars!

What a breath of fresh air!! As much as I love romance novels, they have a pretty typical story line. Making Him Sweat was in a category all on its own which caught my attention from the first chapter!

First of all, there aren't too many books about boxing... I'm not sure why. Its pretty sexy when you think about it. Boxers kind of have that sexy bad boy image but they are disciplined and controlled. Yeah, I can work with that.

Mercer was so controlled. God love him! Jenna was pretty flaky. At times too flaky. But he was always there where she needed him. He had his world ripped away when she walked into it but he just took it in stride.

I'm not so gracious, I would have been more like:

This is a real "growing" book. What I mean by that is that all of the characters grow throughout the 300 or so pages. Mercer realizes that there is more to life and that it is okay to take a risk with a woman, Jenna learns that there was more to her father than what met the eye, and the other various background characters seemed to mature as the time went on as well.

I really LOVED that premise of this book. You know, the whole, she inherited this sweaty decrepit gym from a man that she thought never loved her, so she took her whole life savings and poured it into a franchise that planned to put in the building that currently houses said gym.... But come on, a dating service?? LAME!! I really wish the author utilized a different business, equally pretentious to create the tension that the gym must close, but not so stupid, haha. Perhaps a wedding planner? A designer? But not "Spark"....

Last words, Mercer babe, that (view spoiler)use some work in the romance dept...

Regina says

Check out this review and others like it at [BadAssBookReviews](#)

I loved this book!

I am picky about the romance novels I read and if I were honest, which I guess I should be, many romance novels fail to pull me in. But there are some exceptions. Cara McKenna (here writing as Meg Maguire) is forever going to be one of my favorite writers for her novella Willing Victim and now again for the novel Making Him Sweat. What do I want in my romance? Character depth. Rational scenarios. Please NO evil villains and please never an evil villain's point of view. No virgins (I hate the ideal, bleh let's just get rid of it forever please; and a sexually inexperienced character does nothing for me — although, Cara McKenna does have a very interesting twist on the sexually inexperienced woman in her novella series Curio but that is for another post) No stalking. No scary possessiveness and no bossiness (please no telling the heroine when to sleep, what she should eat, what she should wear – basically no daddy role playing). No pitting women against women just for “fun” to create a false sense of tension. Okay, that is my list of what I hate to read in my romance novels. And Making Him Sweat has none of these; rather, Making Him Sweat has so much to offer.

Character development in *Making Him Sweat* is deep and well-done. Maguire introduces the two main characters – Mercer and Jenna – who are at odds with each other but also deeply connected. Maguire gradually builds their background until I felt that I knew Jenna and Mercer. I love when an author takes her time in telling the story and allows the story to unfold at a good pace. Nothing conveniently happens in *Making Him Sweat*, there is a gradual build to everything.

Jenna and Mercer share some delicious sexual tension, but thankfully Ms. Maguire does not torture her readers. Once the characters are established and the tension is created, readers are rewarded – - no angstily waiting pages and pages to get to the consummation. Thank goodness! But the completion of the first sex scene does not spoil the tension, the novel still progresses at a lovely pace. We see the characters cooking, eating, living and working – all normal stuff most of us can relate to. I loved the setting, the characters and their dialogue with each other – witty, sexy and flirtatious. Most of all the characters have hope about their respective futures and real life pressures. Despite being a romance novel, the book and the world created felt so real.

My conclusion? *Making Him Sweat* is a very sweet romance between two likable and sexy characters. I definitely recommend this book and am looking forward to reading the sequel.

Annie (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

MAKING HIM SWEAT is the first book in a brand new series by Meg Maguire. It's a series that centres around MMA. You know what that means, right? Hot, sweaty, half naked men. I'm there.

Another big reason why I decided to read this book is because of the author. I'm a huge fan of Maguire's authorial voice. A lot of detail is spent on the everyday goings of life and how a hero and a heroine discover chemistry and passion within each other. A Meg Maguire book also explores the past in slow detail, outlining the events in their lives that have made them who they are today.

Jenna Wilinski is hoping to start her new matchmaking business where her father made a home for his MMA fighters. Mercer Rowley is one of them and the man whom her father trusted with his pride and joy. With Jenna's plans to take over, there seems to be a little tension in there. But that also includes the sexual kind.

To be honest, Jenna felt a little overshadowed by Mercer. He really stole the show for me. I absolutely adored him! I loved the way he handled Jenna. As someone who is uptight and unsure of her place in her father's surroundings, Mercer really digs deep and finds the true person beneath. I loved how her father seemed to play a part in bringing them together in a way.

I'm very excited to get my hands on *TAKING HIM DOWN*, which will be Rich's story. I can expect only good things from Maguire!

*ARC provided by Netgalley

Morgan says

CLICK HERE TO READ MY FULL REVIEW AT READING, EATING AND DREAMING I WAS BLAIR WALDORF

I received Making Him Sweat through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

What I loved about Making Him Sweat by Meg Maguire:

Intriguing, entertaining story. I absolutely loved how the main character landed herself with two polar opposite companies: a boxing gym and a matchmaking business. I also love how Jenna's match was her polar opposite. It definitely made things interesting.

Light, easy read. I wouldn't say that this story is a mindless read because that sounds negative and I mean this as a compliment. So let me just say that I enjoyed how this story was a light and refreshing romance novel as opposed to an angsty, emotional roller coaster. It was exactly what I was in the mood for.

Great characters. Jenna and Mercer are wonderful characters. Personally, I loved Mercer. Surprise! Surprise! What can I say, the sexy boxer really did it for me. I sort of expected him to be a domineering macho man, but surprisingly, Mercer is a softie! He's kind and open. He's a great hero!

SEXY. I love sexy, feel-good romance novels. They are my absolute favorite kind of reads and Making Him Sweat definitely falls in this category.

A few minor complaints about Making Him Sweat by Meg Maguire:

Very predictable. That's not really a big negative in my opinion because most romance novels are predictable. I just would have liked a few more surprises throughout this story.

Not enough conflict. I'm trying to think of what the major conflict was in this novel and I'm coming up short. It was a great love story but the character's never really fought or had to overcome anything. There was something pretty big that should have been a pretty major conflict but the characters just kind of accepted things.

Overall, I really enjoyed Making Him Sweat by Meg Maguire. The positives definitely outweighed the negative. I look forward to reading more novels in this companion series and by this author in the future.

I gave Making Him Sweat by Meg Maguire 4 STARS (3.5 STARS). I recommend this novel to adults who are looking for a sweet and sexy romance novel.

-XOXO

READING, EATING AND DREAMING

KatLynne says

3.5 Stars

In this corner.... We have Jenna Wilinski and her soon to be upscale matchmaking business, Sparks of Boston. She's arrived to inhabit the building and business left to her by her estranged father. The only drawback is the stipulation he made in his will, that she keep the Academy open until the New Year. It may be an inconvenience, but she can easily set up shop and work around the two businesses for a short amount of time.

And in this corner... We have Mercer Rowley, boxer, trainer, and general manager to Jenna's inheritance, Wilinski's Fight Academy. Jenna may not have known her father, but Mercer Rowley sure did. Monty Wilinski became his mentor and later his boss. The Academy means much more to Mercer than just a business and he's hoping Jenna will give him the time and chance needed to turn it around into a more productive establishment.

Talk about opposites! Meg Maguire has penned a couple whose personalities and lifestyles are completely different and yet cupid's arrow still finds its mark in spite of it all. The book started slowly for me but soon picks up as Jenna and Mercer face the challenges set before them.

One of the best things about this story is Mercer Rowley. He's all athletic male, sexy boxer, intelligent, patient; a down to earth guy. I liked him immediately and was in his corner throughout the entire book. Jenna may never understand Mercer's love of fighting, but it's not long before she realizes the error of her preconceived judgments. This changes everything for her. I liked her honesty and her openness.

Meg Maguire gives a sweet, warm, fun romance without contrived misunderstandings making this a very realistic and easy read. I enjoyed the opposite attracts theme. The next installment, *Taking Him Down*, features the cocky upcoming MMA fighter, Rich Estrada and the lovely Lindsay Tuttle, Jenna's assistant. I'm sure sparks will be flying between these two and I'm looking forward to getting their story as well as a few questions answered!

My Rating: 3.5/5 Stars

Steam: 2.5

ARC courtesy of Harlequin via NetGalley

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

Making Him Sweat is a sexy story, the first book in a new series and Meg Maguire's first multi-book deal. Harlequin Blaze is the publisher, and those of you who've read this line in the past know that the stories are definitely hot! This book introduces us to some very interesting characters, people whose stories promise to be exciting, fun, and very sexy.

From the cover:

She's hitting below the belt...

Round 1

In this corner is admittedly romantic Jenna Wilinski, who's inherited a rather seedy boxing gym from her estranged father. With it, she can realize her dream of launching an upscale matchmaking business...provided she can take on the very intimidating—and wickedly hot—boxer who stands in her way!

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In the far corner is former pro boxer Mercer Rowley. He's the only one who can protect his "home"—even if it is a little run-down— from his determined and feisty little opponent. But man, once the gloves come off, his hands just want to touch her everywhere...

Round 3

This matchup is too close to call. But no matter which contender comes out on top, the other is sure to enjoy every minute of it...

If you've had the pleasure of reading Meg Maguire's stories, you know that she gives a lot of attention to detail; the simple, everyday goings on in her heroes and heroines lives. It's these things that help us see them as people, rather than just characters we're reading about. It draws us in, has us invested, and keeps us coming back for more.

I thoroughly enjoyed Mercer Rowley! He's intelligent, witty, passionate, and what I loved most about him – he's grounded. He's real. No angst, no drama, no deep dark secrets to be revealed. He's the kind of "everyday hero" I can love.

I almost feel bad for the heroines in the books I read because I'm not as easily invested in them as I am the heroes. They have to work for my support, and then work even harder for my stamp of approval on their *happily ever after*. I'm telling you this because, unfortunately, for the life of me I couldn't figure out what he saw in Jenna Wilinski. She blew into town thinking she'd just shut down the boxing gym Mercer trying to make into a profitable business. Granted, she had some false impressions that had her feeling less than benevolent about it all, but there was something about her I can't put my finger on, something ... off. I didn't fully buy into her "coming around" but hey... Mercer loves her, so who am I to complain?

The bottom line: If you enjoy reading about super sexy boxers who like to get down and dirty, then definitely give this book a try. It's an easy, entertaining story and I'm looking forward to reading the next installment, *Taking Him Down*.

3.5/5 stars

My thanks to Harlequin and Netgalley for providing me with a copy of this book for review.
