



One Man Guy

By Michael Barakiva

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Alek Khederian should have guessed something was wrong when his parents took him to a restaurant. Everyone knows that Armenians never eat out. Why bother, when their home cooking is far superior to anything "these Americans" could come up with? Between bouts of interrogating the waitress and criticizing the menu, Alek's parents announce that he'll be attending summer school in order to bring up his grades. Alek is sure this experience will be the perfect hellish end to his hellish freshmen year of high school. He never could've predicted that he'd meet someone like Ethan.

Ethan is everything Alek wishes he were: confident, free-spirited, and irreverent. When Ethan gets Alek to cut school and go to a Rufus Wainwright concert in New York City's Central Park, Alek embarks on his first adventure outside the confines of his suburban New Jersey existence. He can't believe a guy this cool wants to be his friend. And before long, it seems like Ethan wants to be more than friends. Alek has never thought about having a boyfriend—he's barely ever had a girlfriend—but maybe it's time to think again. Michael Barakiva's *One Man Guy* is a romantic, moving, laugh-out-loud-funny story about what happens when one person cracks open your world and helps you see everything—and, most of all, yourself--like you never have before.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 6–10—Fourteen-year-old Alek Khederian is horrified when his parents announce that he will be going to summer school in order to get him on the Honors track. This change of plans means no relaxation, no time with friends, no tennis camp, and no family vacation. He starts summer school grudgingly, only to have his spirits lifted when he meets Ethan, who is different from anyone Alek has ever known, and Alek is shocked when Ethan wants to be friends. Before long, their friendship deepens into a romance Alek definitely didn't see coming. The events in this coming-of-age novel move a little too quickly to be fully realized, and some of the secondary characters are two-dimensional. However, Alek's character is well developed. He's a likable teen who remains true to himself throughout; he stands up for what he believes in, even if it means upsetting the people he cares about. The story will appeal to both young people who are just discovering their own sexuality and readers who enjoy a good budding romance.—Sarah Allen, Judson High School, Converse, TX

From [Booklist](#)

When it appears that Alek is going to fall off the Honor Track at school, the 14-year-old's strict Armenian parents, for whom education is of paramount importance, insist he go to summer school. Little do they—or he—know that it will be a life-changing experience. For it is there that he meets Ethan, who epitomizes cool. To Alek's amazement, the two become friends and then fall in love. But when Alek's parents predictably find the two making out, they ground him and forbid him to see Ethan again. Surely, this can't end well. Or can it? Barakiva's first novel is at once a sweet-spirited love story and a sometimes didactic primer on Armenian life and culture in America. The reader learns, for example, that if you're Armenian, you only go to an Armenian Orthodox Church, you must love chess and classical music, and the kitchen and ethnic cuisine are the pride of every Armenian household. More serious is the attention given to the early-twentieth-century Armenian Holocaust and the visceral memories it stirs. The Armenian content adds flavor and texture to what would otherwise be a fairly typical gay love story. Grades 7-10. --Michael Cart

Review

“Hand this one to those who’ve already gone through Levithan’s *Boy Meets Boy* and Kluger’s *My Most Excellent Year*.” ?*The Bulletin*

“Barakiva's first novel is at once a sweet-spirited love story . . . the Armenian content adds flavor and texture..” ?*Booklist*

“The story will appeal to both young people who are just discovering their own sexuality and readers who enjoy a good budding romance.” ?*School Library Journal*

“Barakiva's debut is well-wrought and realistic . . . and it's entertaining.” ?*Kirkus Reviews*

“Barakiva avoids stereotypes and clichés to create a sweet portrait of nascent adolescent love between two boys growing up and finding themselves (with some help from nearby New York City).” ?*Publishers Weekly*

“A romantic comedy with Armenian flair . . . Don't miss it.” ?E. Lockhart, author of *We Were Liars*

“A kind and generous book about the loneliness of a young boy trying to navigate between a chaotic Armenian family and a school of bullying cliques. Alek Khederian deals bravely and inspiringly with the perils of learning to love your family, to love someone else, and most of all, to love yourself.” ?Eleanor

Bergstein, novelist and screenwriter of the film *Dirty Dancing*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Melanie Tuck:

Reading can be called mind hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book specifically book entitled *One Man Guy* your head will drift away through every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe unfamiliar for but surely might be your mind friends. Imaging just about every word written in a book then become one type conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get ahead of. The *One Man Guy* giving you an additional experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful data for your better life in this era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

Luis Acosta:

Are you kind of occupied person, only have 10 or maybe 15 minute in your time to upgrading your mind talent or thinking skill actually analytical thinking? Then you are experiencing problem with the book when compared with can satisfy your small amount of time to read it because all of this time you only find book that need more time to be study. *One Man Guy* can be your answer given it can be read by a person who have those short extra time problems.

Debra Lovern:

With this era which is the greater man or who has ability in doing something more are more special than other. Do you want to become one of it? It is just simple strategy to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time very little but quite enough to have a look at some books. On the list of books in the top checklist in your reading list is actually *One Man Guy*. This book that is qualified as *The Hungry Hills* can get you closer in getting precious person. By looking up and review this book you can get many advantages.

John Merritt:

What is your hobby? Have you heard this question when you got learners? We believe that that problem was given by teacher on their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every individual has different hobby. And also you know that little person similar to reading or as looking at become their hobby. You should know that reading is very important and book as to be the issue. Book is important thing to add you knowledge, except your own teacher or lecturer. You get good news or update in relation to something by book. Amount types of books that can you choose to use be your object. One of them is actually *One Man Guy*.

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