



Running in Heels: A Novel

By Anna Maxted

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Running in Heels: A Novel By Anna Maxted

"To say that Babs has been my closest friend for sixteen years is rather like saying that Einstein was good at sums. We were blood sisters from the age of eleven (before my mother prized the razor out of Babs's hand)."

But now Babs, noisy and as fun as a day at the beach, is getting married. And Natalie Miller, twenty-seven, senior press officer for the London Ballet, panics. What happens when your best friend pledges everlasting love to someone else?

It doesn't help that Nat is dating a guy named Saul Bowcock. As the confetti flutters, her good-girl veneer cracks, and she falls into an alluringly unsuitable affair that spins her crazily out of control. Nat is on the rebound and allergic to the truth—about Babs's relationship, her boyfriend's ambition, her parents' divorce, and her golden-boy brother's little Australian secret. Her mother's lasagna and her roommate Andy's fuzzy slippers are also monstrous affronts. But what Nat really needs to face is the mirror—and herself . . .

Wickedly witty and refreshingly honest, *Running in Heels* is a hilarious look at the lies we tell ourselves—and the unwanted truths that only our best friends can tell us.

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Running in Heels: A Novel By Anna Maxted Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1058740 in Books
- Published on: 2002-05-28
- Released on: 2002-05-28
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x 1.08" w x 5.50" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 432 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Is using men and then complaining about how tough it is being a single woman funny? Maxted apparently thinks so, since that is the basis for the first third of her sophomore comic effort (following the well-received *Getting Over It*), before it veers without warning into the psychology of eating disorders and self-hatred. Natalie Miller, 20-something Londoner, is less than enthusiastic about her sensible boyfriend, Saul. To make matters worse, her best friend, Babs, is getting married, leaving Natalie feeling abandoned. So Natalie takes up with a bad boy who wants to teach her how to be bad, too. Soon, Natalie's hair begins falling out an early warning signal that she's taken her flirtation with anorexia too far and it's Babs to the rescue, functioning as both savior and voice of reason as Natalie gets her comeuppance, finally realizing that people shouldn't be judged by their bodies and that she needs to accept herself. While Maxted, former associate editor of *Cosmopolitan UK*, understands anorexia well, she has crafted a singularly unsympathetic heroine, one for whom taking up Pilates represents a major life-change. When self-absorbed and childish Natalie complains to her mother that she's sick of being quiet, three-quarters of the way into this bloated whine-fest, fatigued readers will wish that not talking enough really was her problem. Never mind the breakneck pace implied by the title; this one plods along in plimsolls, far too long for a Britcom. Agent, Deborah Gelfman. (June 1) Forecast: Maxted scored big with *Getting Over It*, and her latest, with its sassy yellow jacket, will likely be a popular beach accessory this summer. Still, this isn't the frothy fun one might expect, and sales probably will slump when word gets out.

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From Library Journal

Maxted's *Getting Over It* was accused of being a *Bridget Jones* clone, but it was more than that. Now the *Cosmopolitan U.K.* contributing editor expands her repertoire with this story of Natalie, who fears she's all alone when best friend Barbara marries.

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From [Booklist](#)

When her best friend, Babs, gets married, Natalie is sure that their friendship will suffer. Matters are strained when Natalie starts dating Chris, a pompous band manager of whom Babs disapproves. Their relationship becomes increasingly strained, until Babs finally confronts Natalie, concerned about her dangerously low weight. But Natalie's downward spiral is just beginning: she continues to starve herself, loses her job, and enrages her spoiled brother by telling their mother about the child he had out of wedlock years before. However, Natalie is surprised to find that her friends are more steadfast than she thought: her former boss, Matt, finds her freelance jobs; her new friend, Alex, forces her to stick with Pilates; and Andy, Bab's handsome brother, moves into her flat and lifts her spirits. Natalie's journey is a long one, with lots of ups and downs, but it is hilariously and touchingly told. Maxted, whose debut novel, *Getting Over It* (2000), was a hit last year, balances the humor and the seriousness of Natalie's problems perfectly. *Kristine Huntley*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Olivia Clinard:

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