



## Second First Impressions

William Morrow Paperbacks

By Sally Thorne

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### Introduction

***“Second First Impressions is the warmest, coziest, sweetest book of the year, an absolutely perfect blend of humor and heart. I want to live inside Sally Thorne’s brain.” —Emily Henry, New York Times bestselling of Beach Read***

**From the USA Today bestselling author of *The Hating Game* and *99 Percent Mine* comes the clever, funny, and unforgettable story of a muscular, tattooed man hired as an assistant to two old women—under the watchful eye of a beautiful retirement home manager.**

*Dazzle (n): Brightness that blinds someone temporarily.*

Position Vacant: Two ancient old women residing at Providence Retirement Villa seek male assistant for casual exploitation and good-natured humiliation. Duties include boutique shopping, fast-food fetching, and sincerely rendered flattery. Good looks a bonus—but we aren’t picky.

An advertisement has been placed (again!) by the wealthy and eccentric Parlioni Sisters. The salary is generous and the employers are 90 years old, so how hard could the job be? Well, none have lasted longer than a week. Most boys leave in tears.

Ruthie Midona will work in Providence’s front office, and be at the Parlioni’s beck and call, *forever*. That’s sort of her life plan. If Ruthie can run the place in her almost-retired bosses’ absence, with no hijinks/hiccups, she has a shot at becoming the new manager. She might also be able to defend her safe little world from Prescott Development, the new buyer of the prime site. Maybe after *all* that, she can find a cute guy to date. All she needs to do is stay serious—and that’s what she does best.

Until, one day, someone dazzling blows into town.

Teddy Prescott devotes his life to sleeping, tattooing, and avoiding seriousness. When Teddy needs a place to crash, he makes a deal with his developer dad. Teddy can stay in one of Providence’s on-

site maintenance cottages—right next door to an unimpressed Ruthie—but only if he works there and starts to grow up.

Ruthie knows how this sweetly selfish rich boy can earn his keep—and be out of her hair in under a week. After all, there is a position vacant...

## Questions for Discussion

1. If you were an elderly resident at Providence and money were no object, what kinds of frivolous tasks would you give to your personal assistant? Who would your ideal roommate be?
  2. What are some of the common romance tropes in this book? Can you think of at least three?
  3. Initially, Ruthie assigns Teddy as assistant to the Parlonis to get him to quit and leave. What were the reasons Ruthie tried so hard to keep Teddy at arm's length in the beginning?
  4. When was the moment you felt Teddy started to break through Ruthie's walls?
  5. (A) What does a "comfort" TV show mean to you, and why do we return to old favorites? What's yours?  
  
(B) *Heaven Sent* was Ruthie's favorite TV show until a scandal with the lead actor broke. Do you think this show is based on a real-life show?  
  
(C) Do you think it's possible to still enjoy a beloved show when something like this happens and an actor or director is "canceled" for their behavior?
  6. Teddy Prescott was a challenging character to write because he appears to be extremely friendly to everyone, but his sincerity could be questionable. What were some of the telltale signs and clues he gave Ruthie that showed she meant more to him than anyone else?
  7. Are there any side characters in this book you can imagine would make for a good spin-off?
  8. Ruthie grappled a lot with her age in this book—she felt a lot older than her real age, yet also a lot younger and inexperienced. Was there a scene in the book where you felt that she truly embraced her youth with wild abandon?
  9. Did you suspect the true nature of Agatha and Renata's relationship, or was it a surprise? Did you understand why they kept this private?
  10. The story has themes of give/take and adorer/adoree.  
  
(A) Do you agree with Melanie's assertion that one person is the adorer in a relationship, and the other is the adored?
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(B) Did Ruthie learn to take or to give by the end of this book? What about Teddy?

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