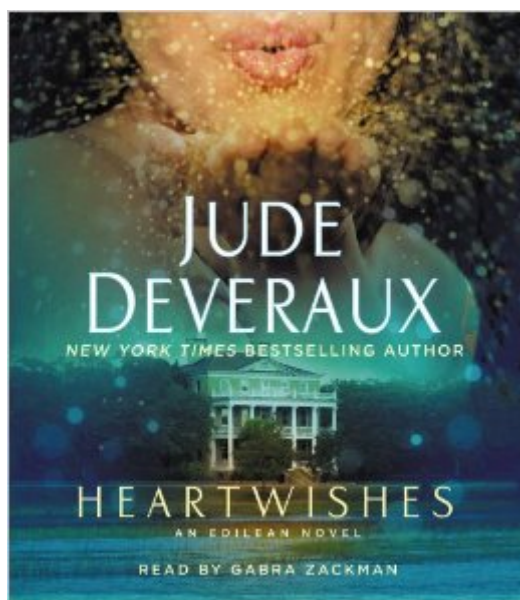


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Heartwishes: A Novel (Edilean Novel)



Synopsis

In this spellbinding new novel from New York Times bestselling author Jude Deveraux, a young woman must hunt for a magical stone to protect the man she loves. Gemma Ranford wants the job cataloging the documents of one of Edilean's oldest families, the Fraziers, so much that she is ready to do battle to get it. Fascinated with history, and desperately trying to finish her dissertation, she's hoping against all hope that the papers will yield new information to invigorate her research. What she didn't expect to find is references to the Heartwishes Stone, believed by most to be pure legend, and said to grant wishes to anyone named Frazier. As Gemma learns more about the family—and even begins falling in love with the eldest son, Colin—it becomes increasingly clear that their wishes are actually coming true. Together, Gemma and Colin must work together to find the stone that's been missing for more than 100 years, and with an international thief also on the hunt, the clock is ticking.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Classic Jude Deveraux: clever, witty, compassionate and compelling all at the same time. Jude is the queen of one-liners, and she has some zingers in Heartwishes. The scene with Mr. Lang in the grocery had me laughing out loud, and I cheered Gemma on the "blowing magazines off the table." Since other reviewers have already told the basic story, I'll skip that. One of the many reasons I love reading Jude's books, and Heartwishes in particular, is that if you go deeper than the premise, there's a lot more to it. You can read this book as a basic romance novel, or you can start reading

between the lines and learn so much more. Colin was a very flawed hero in the beginning. His lack of communication skills, and his pattern of picking fights with her to vent his frustration and disappointment are a common and often serious problem. How many men do we know who are like that? It sabotages relationships and more than once has been the cause of a breakup, even divorce. For me, his athleticism - creating his own body, if you will - was a way for him to express himself and feel powerful and successful at something while he was being controlled and manipulated by his father's wishes. Jean (the Dragon, LOL) didn't have anything to go on but her own conclusions that he was jealous of her success, and she was fighting serious battles of her own that she couldn't share with him. She didn't turn to Colin for help because she'd learned not to trust men and he was emotionally unavailable. We see the problems and misunderstandings caused by keeping secrets, not being honest with our feelings, and basically being inauthentic. Gemma's ability to break through Colin's barriers was a blessing to him, and she did it by being open and direct.

This has to be one of the blandest, most boring books I have ever read in my life. Conflict? The little it has makes absolutely no sense. First, let me start by saying that everything in this book fell into place a little too easily. Everyone loved Gemma and she was just so perfect in every way. Everyone immediately got along with including the few people who don't get along with others. The only people Gemma didn't get along with were the people who were the bad guys. It was actually sickening to read how peachy keen everything seemed. And pardon me, but isn't this story called Heartwishes? We really get to read anything about Gemma's research or the stone unless it's in quick spurts or the letter she reads at the very end. Kind of a cop-out if you ask me. I was more curious about the stone than Gemma and Colin's relationship. This brings me to another point. The only romance novels I hate reading more than the ones where the couple fights every second they are not having sex is the ones where there is absolutely no conflict between the two. The only fight the two had, I thought Gemma had lost her mind. It seriously made no sense to me. Gemma doesn't like Colin's "jealousy" and says she can't handle it when Colin gets upset about her spending time with Tris alone, but Colin never acted on his jealousy. In fact, he had to tell her he was even jealous at all. But it's okay for Gemma to get hysterically angry and storm off when Colin says his ex-girlfriend is connected to a case he is working on. Gemma, who is carrying Colin's child, comes up with all these plans of living her life and raising the child without Colin after he tells her this. Completely ridiculous if you ask me, especially since Gemma goes around kissing everyone the entire novel. Not even kidding.

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