

Jennifer H. Westall

*Love's
Providence*

"What you meant for evil, God intended for good..."

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College athlete Lily Brennon has always been the piece that doesn't quite fit in the puzzle, especially in her blended family, and no amount of rule-following perfection seems to bring her any closer to the love and acceptance she desperately seeks. If not for Jackson Carter, her childhood best friend and the only boy she's ever loved, she's sure she would have run away years ago. But when Jackson loses his father and a future basketball career within months of each other, his faith is so shattered, he shuts out everyone, including Lily.

After months of heartache, Lily begins to piece together a life without Jackson, and while vacationing at the beach on a beautiful island off the Georgia coast, she begins a long-distance romance with Alex Walker, a police officer with a quick wit and a cocky grin. He revives her hope in love again, but their intense attraction and his devastating secret test Lily's commitment to save herself for marriage. Through her struggles to remain true to her principles, an agonizing choice between Alex and Jackson, and a series of terrifying events that threaten all of them, Lily must endure losing everything she's been grasping so tightly. Only then will she discover the depth of the love that already surrounds her.

Love's Providence Details

Date : Published May 24th 2012 by Self Published

ISBN :

Author : Jennifer H. Westall

Format : Kindle Edition 289 pages

Genre : Christian, Christian Fiction, Romance, Fiction, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Love's Providence for online ebook

Jonel Boyko says

Once I was finished reading this very well written book I felt at peace. Love's Providence is an intriguing novel full of some of the most tragic events imaginable, but they are all realistic things that could happen in a regular individual's day. No one is supernatural, no one is a super hero, and everyone is overwhelmingly human in every thought, feeling, and action. All in all, the overarching religious experience found within the pages brings you back to yourself and helps you re-center yourself. It is not overwhelming, preaching Christian ideals at the reader, but at the same time, it is definitely a firm presence that leads the main characters through their day to day lives following those ideals.

Throughout the novel the main character is battling the loss of her first love and trying to rebuild her life while maintaining a relationship with said first love. She attempts to balance her Christian beliefs with today's prevalent views on sex and relationships. She also has to come to terms with her actions when she does go against her long-held belief system. By bringing the topic of sexual encounters to the forefront of the story it stands out from the typical YA religious romance novel. But it does so in a way that lets you see the connection between the character's actions and her beliefs. The addition of the suspenseful mystery aspect of the novel takes you on a journey that you generally would not expect from this type of novel.

Overall, the hope and faith found in this novel is enough to rejuvenate even the most jaded of readers while keeping them captivated by the constant twists and turns in the story. It also helps to reconcile the many tragedies that can be faced in everyday life with a God who loves those on Earth.

Stacy Walz says

Great story and happy ending!

Good read. Slow to start but great storyline. Very captivating and good lesson in leaning on Jesus for everything. It is so easy for us to mess up His good plans for us!

Corrine says

This is a good fast read. I was in between books for my book club and thought why not try this book for .99 on Amazon not expecting to much. Boy was I wrong, this book engages you right from the start and I was not able to put it down. I hope to see much more from Jennifer. I really like her writing style it! flows so well. Jennifer keep writing.

Lisa (Bookworm Lisa) says

3.5 stars

Lily is the main character in the book. Her story begins as her boyfriend and best friend decides to end the relationship. He is struggling with personal trauma and emotionally withdraws from life.

Heartbroken, she takes a trip with her family to an island for the summer. Here she meets Alex. He is a handsome police officer with an attitude. It doesn't take long for sparks to fly and the relationship to progress further than Lily was prepared for.

Lurking in the background is her feelings for Jackson, the boyfriend. She can't seem to let go, and yet she is ready to move on. It doesn't take long for Jackson to realize he has made a terrible mistake.

The story revolves around Lily and her struggle to figure out what she wants in her life. Her Christian values are strongly shaken by Alex. I could see how he got her to let down her guard a little bit at a time to get what he wanted from her. I could understand his side of the story, it's not that he was a bad person, just had a different set of values.

This is a well thought out book. While morals are compromised, it gives little detail to the events.

Angie ~aka Reading Machine~ says

Book exchanged for a review~Per Goodreads rules

What a beautiful story of hope, faith, and love between two childhood friends. From the beginning you are drawn into the story of Lily and Jackson. Following Lily and Jackson thru life's ups and downs show you just how faithful God really is. Both Jackson and Lily are tested yet neither of them see it until the very end of the book. Here are my thoughts on the book.

Lily Brennon is a young Christian, who always thought Jackson and her were going to be together forever, yet that is not the case at all. Jackson loves Lily more than anything yet pushes her out of his life without a second thought and no regret. While on vacation, Lily meets Alex Walker, a local cop, that helps Lily slowly face the world without Jackson in it. Lily and Alex start dating only she finds out a secret that makes her want to run away. Alex's convinces Lily to listen to his side of the story which she does and continues to date him. Jackson slowly crawls out of his depression to see he's made a mistake regarding Lily. Alex, Jackson, and Lily receives packages, texts, and emails from an unknown source all of which threatens Lily's life. Will Jackson face his feelings? Will Lily hang onto her faith? Will Alex show his feelings? How will God show himself in these lives? Your answers await you in Love's Providence.

Suzanne says

Really enjoyed the book! Characters were likable and well developed. Loved the ending but I won't spoil it for you.

Joana says

I started to read this delightful book thinking it was just the normal Christian Romance. Boy was I wrong!

This little book packed a punch and pretty soon I was transported into an all out mystery/suspense with action and adventure. Wow.

This is an excellent read for young adults and I'd even recommend it for young Christians who are in the throes of decision making as it relates to purity. This book shows us what can happen when we compromise our standards and change our minds to please those around us. In this book, our heroine Lily was hurt by the love of her life and meets another guy who seems great but her decision to start a relationship with him will change her life forever.

The story line though predictable (most romance novels by nature are predictable) kept me coming back for more. I kept trying to tell Lily what to do throughout the entire book. It really was an interesting read and worth the time.

Kathleen says

Lily Brennon and Jackson Carter have been childhood best friends for twelve years, and have dated from their late high school years into their college years in Birmingham, Alabama. Lily always thought that they had a relationship that was going to last forever, but when Jackson suffers the tragic loss of his father and a blown knee sidelines his dream of joining the NBA, he slides down the slippery slope of depression and pushes everyone away including Lily.

While on a family vacation to St. Simons Island, Georgia over the fourth of July holiday, Lily meets handsome local policeman Alex Walker. Alex helps Lily see that she can move forward with her life without Jackson being in it.

Back home in Birmingham, Jackson realizes that he has messed up and wants Lily back in his life, but there is an attraction between Alex and Lily, and this love triangle will take all three of them on a journey that will bring their secrets, hopes, love, faith, heartache, choices, decisions and compromises to the surface, it will test their principles and beliefs, and ultimately change their lives as well.

Love's Providence is a YA Christian romance story that delves into the struggles of young adults making decisions of the heart while maintaining their faith and principles. Written in the third person narrative, the storyline alternates between the perspectives of Lily, Jackson and Alex. The setting of the story flips back and forth between Lily and Jackson's hometown of Birmingham, Alabama and Alex's hometown of St. Simon Island / Brunswick, Georgia. While the storyline mainly deals with struggle to make choices and decisions of the heart, it also has an intriguing addition of mystery and suspense thrown into the mix with enough twists and turns that will keep you guessing.

The author has created an intriguing cast of complex characters that easily draws the reader into their individual stories. I really enjoyed getting to know Lily, Jackson and Alex, and reading about their individual personal issues that they had to deal with in addition to their love triangle / romance issues. The author weaves a thoughtful tale about maintaining one's faith while navigating down the tricky path of life and the ups and downs that happen along the way.

Love's Providence is an inspirational story about the bonds of friendship, the choices one makes in the matter of the heart, and maintaining your faith and principles. This is a wonderful story that young adults and adults

can share with each other, it can open up the lines of communication and provide much food for thought for the young adults as they go through the transitional years from teen to adult.

Disclaimer: I received a copy of the book from the author in exchange for my honest review and participation in a virtual book tour event hosted by Reading Addiction Blog Tours.

<http://jerseygirlbookreviews.blogspot...>

Maritza says

This book has everything! Tragedy, mistakes , romance, regret, thrills, forgiveness and most of all love! Beautiful story of how regardless of our mistakes and bad choices God loves us and always has the best design for our lives...even when we get in the way! Loved it

Dani C. (Paulette's Papers) says

I have to say that Love's Providence really surprised me. I knew it was a Christian Romance when I started it but the story is such a real and touching one. It had a really good mixture of romance and mystery to it.

This is a book I would recommend to any young adult or even adult. It really shows how one wrong decision and a compromise on your beliefs can make life spiral out of control. There are many good lessons to be learned from this and I think the consequences are portrayed very well. It is a short but very easy read and one I think anyone would find very enjoyable.

Pauline Kyama says

It's not quite a 4, but not a 3 either. After reading the healing Ruby series... I struggled to get into this story. But once it picked up, I read it everywhere and sometimes, as I waiting for traffic to move, I sneaked in a page or two eager to get home, cosy up and read on. Initially, I felt it was suitable for a younger me. The constant description of the characters being aroused, felt a bit much like the characters had no other dimension but Its high school going on to college so that really is true to the season in the characters lives. Besides, hind sight is vision 20/20 and its so easy to forget that at that age, every emotion was so intense, so raw, so pure. The passion was intoxicating and palpable. The struggle to do what you think is right verses your raging hormones, wondering how far is too far? Pushing the boundaries with every kiss and moment spent alone. In the end, the hurt and the things that spiral out of control perhaps not to the extent in the book, but very "real, sobering, fight with God, WHY moments", the exhaustion from crying from one heartbreak and stumbling right into another while still trying to keep important balls in the air, school, dreams, family. Eventually you stop fighting God and simply pray, HELP.PLEASE.SORRY That time in your life really shapes you. It can grow your faith or completely shutter it.

I enjoyed the book. An easy read. The plot took sometime to build up. The characters felt so so, I couldn't quite see them in my minds eye and some bits of the story seemed to just drop off...

One valuable lesson I learnt is that in times of great struggle, whispering a short prayer can make all the difference and that, I will take with me.

I salute the writer for following her passion... It's takes such courage. I look forward to reading more.

Donna Dv says

Great book

Loved this book. It was so full of twists and turns, very interesting and well written. Ms. Westlake is one of my favorite authors.

Jen says

I'm going to stay this is sports related because she was a volleyball player and he was a basketball player.. they did a few play by plays with the volleyball - so sports :)

his was an Awesome book! I truly loved it! It had everything I love in a great romance book - Starting off with Jackson and Lily being best friends since they were 9 years old, dating when they turned 16, in love while in collage.

Life was great!

At least until things started going downhill for Jackson. His father died, he blew out his knee during basketball, and his coach just called and said the scouts didn't want to look at him anymore because of his injuries...

As if things couldn't get any worse, he told Lily he needed to be alone.. not just for now, but he needed he gone.. for good -

A few months later, Lily was still stirring over Jackson, but taking a family vacation was what she needed. Time away from her own thoughts.

Her obnoxious step sister and cousin were trying to get her to loosen up a bit.

When they wondered over to the cute cops that were sitting down at the picnic tables, she didn't care that she was being rude. She wasn't interested in anyone right now..

After a few days at the beach house, wondering around with the girls, and running into Steve and Alex a few more times, she decided to do the right thing. She apologized to Alex for being so rude and arrogant towards him. And in turn, he apologized to her for being rude right back.

They decided to start over... this time, they were actually friendly towards each other.

Days go by and Alex and Lily spend some more time getting to know one another. But it's time for Lily to go back home. Volleyball camp starts next week, and then it's practice and school - she doesn't know when she'll be able to see Alex again, but Alex still wants to keep in touch.

After a bit of time away, but still communicating over the phone, Lily decides to go back to Georgia with her friends to visit Alex.

Things heat up, and temptation overrides her beliefs. She feels the pull towards Alex, but she also knows that

she wants to wait until she's married..

Going back home was hard. Jackson had a nice talk with his mom about learning to live and love is better than not to love at all. He wanted Lily back.

But when he finds out she's seeing Alex, he can't take it anymore.

Lily is torn between her life long best friend, and the guy she seems to be falling for now. How can she decide between the two?

Life starts to get stressful for Lily, and her confusion starts to blur her decisions. She loses her way, and struggles hard to get back on the right right..

Like I said, great story - we even had the crazy ex jump in and try to complicate things a lot - then the HEA was hard, because you can't help but fall in love with both Alex and Jackson. They're both great guys, and neither one of them deserves to be hurt.

The Christian part of the book was really great. It wasn't deep into spirituality, but Lily's belief in God was strong. She made her choices based on how God wanted her to act, and she really believed that he was guiding their love life as he saw fit.

It really opened my eyes to a few things I'd forgotten about in the past, and really touched me, personally :D

Leigh says

ORIGINAL REVIEW AT: Little Book Star

This is the first time that I read a YA Christian Romance and it was awesome! It's not only about romance, but it's about the characters making right decisions in life, keeping their morals & principles, and taking risks. It is told in third person p.o.v. and switches back and forth to our three main characters' perspectives – Lily, Jackson, and Alex. Lily and Jackson are best friends and had been on the same school since they were a child. Let's say, they were bff's. The story starts out when they are in college and as the story progresses, they both doubt whether or not they are meant for each other. As the story goes on, Lily meets a guy (yes, it's Alex) while on a family vacation and that's when the love triangle begins.

It was definitely something new and very relatable. I actually feel like the story can be true-to-life; the characters felt so real and they were making decisions like people in real life do. The characters definitely had their strengths and weaknesses and that's one of the things I liked about the book. I also like how it switches back and forth to two different states, Georgia and Alabama (you'll see why). It keeps us guessing and omg I almost cried when a tragedy happened in the book. It was the saddest and bravest thing ever. I don't usually "almost cry" when reading a book, if I do then the book definitely hit me.

While reading it, I thought of Taylor Swift's song White Horse. I don't know, I feel like it just fits the story. I really recommend this to everyone whether you're a teen or an adult especially if you're up to books with best friends who becomes lovers then strangers then seeing how they come back to each other and realize that they just have to put their trust in God. It's one of those books that gives you something to think about.

Ileana Tsai says

(This review has spoiler) This is a surprising nice read. This is the story of Jackson, Lily and Alex. I must confess that the book was slow for me at the beginning but I kept reading it because the book's good review. The book got much more intense towards the latter half. It had unexpected twists and turns and ultimately love and forgiveness was what reunited two of the main characters. I must say that I have mixed feelings about Lily since she ultimately lost her virginity to Alex. She knew all along that Alex was wrong for her but she continued with her relationship with Alex. Alex did love her in her own way but ultimately lost her because their spiritual beliefs were so different. My favorite character is Jackson, of course, who always stayed true to his Christian belief and ultimately forgave her showing to her that he truly loved her all along like he professed to her. All in all a good read although not sure I would recommend it to a teenager to read.
