



Raphaela's Gift

Sydney Laine Allan

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A romance novel about hope, courage and a love that almost wasn't

From the author of RESCUE ME, a romance novel about hope, courage and a love that almost wasn't.

For anyone who can't get enough of Suzanne Brockman, Susan Wiggs, Sandra Kitt, and Kathleen Korbel... "Raphaela's Gift" is your next feel-good read!

Plot Summary:

One desperate father.

One determined therapist.

A very special little girl.

And the gift that will change their lives.

Dr. Garret Damiani, a master at denying his feelings, is determined to heal his daughter. When he arrives at Mountain Rise, a camp for autistic children, he is cold, distant and uncomfortable. But Garret's self-protective tactic is difficult to maintain when he confronts Faith LeFeuvre, their art therapist. She is secretly fighting her own battle, yet when she meets Garret and his daughter, an instant and potent bond draws her to them. With steadfast determination, she sets out to heal the Damiani family and force Garret from his spiny shell...not knowing in the process she will also heal herself.

Can a love forged in the heat of a sultry summer survive the pressure of adversity and past tragedy or will it shatter into fragments?

SAMPLE

"Welcome to Mountain Rise, Doctor Damiani," said one, taking a suitcase from Garret. "I'm Jeffrey and this is Dan," he said, motioning toward the other boy. "You can step inside and check in. Would you like some help with your daughter?"

"Wow, thanks. Sure," he said, impressed Jeffrey knew his name.

Dan, who'd been standing silent but displaying an eager grin, nodded and dashed into the lodge, returning moments later to proclaim, "Miss LeFeuvre will be here in a minute."

Nodding, Garret handed the other suitcases to Dan. "What does Miss LeFeuvre do here?" he asked, making small talk. He didn't like standing around waiting, especially with a stranger.

"She's an art therapist--been told she's the best. She's new here, but everyone likes her so far."

He ducked into the back of the truck and reached for Raphaela's favorite blanket, which he'd brought to help her settle down at night. She'd never stayed in a strange place overnight. He had no idea what to expect. "Art therapist? Who ever heard of an art therapist?"

"You haven't heard of an art therapist?" A woman asked, her voice not the gritty, post-pubescent one that had spoken moments ago.

Jerking back, he clunked his head on the truck's rear hatch. Gritting his teeth at the throbbing pain, he resisted the temptation to throw his hand on his head and howl. After drawing in a slow, deep breath, he turned to face the woman he assumed was Miss LeFeuvre, the art therapist. It was always his luck--make a stupid comment about someone, and they end up behind him.

Immediately his tongue froze to the roof of his mouth. She wasn't anything like he'd imagined. Her title had elicited images of a young kid, mid twenties, with a pierced nose or spiky black hair. The artsy type.

Instead, she was a beautiful woman with silky blond hair, and round, blue eyes leveled at him in silent censure.

"You were about to say?" Her voice was sharp and yet he sensed she was neither as angry, nor as insulted, as she sounded.

Of its own volition, his gaze meandered down her body, lingering at the swell of her breasts, emphasized by her v-neck t-shirt. Her khaki shorts accentuated the narrow span of her waist and hips and her trim thighs. Yet, she wasn't waif thin, like Marian. He preferred a woman who was built like a woman. No boyish hard body for him.

When his regard ventured back to her face, he realized she was older than he'd expected--possibly in her thirties, his age.

Wrenching his tongue from the roof of his mouth, he thrust his hand out and stammered, "Garret Damiani. Nice to meet you."

She smiled, then glanced at his hand, and lifted azure eyes back to his face. Placing her hand in his, she said, "Faith LeFeuvre. Questioning the program already, Doctor Damiani?"

Raphaela's Gift Details

Date : Published April 9th 2011 by Novel Mind Books (first published September 2003)

ISBN :

Author : Sydney Laine Allan

Format : Kindle Edition 312 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary, Fiction, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Contemporary Romance, Drama

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From Reader Review Raphaela's Gift for online ebook

Bobbie says

Good insight into living with Autism. I enjoyed all aspects of this well written story.

Marla Blowers says

Sydney Allan has a very compelling story in Raphaela's Gift. I enjoyed it tremendously. I do not know anything about autism and won't pretend I do, I can only imagine the roller coaster ride that entails. This book shows how a man and a woman who are both professionals can doubt their abilities based on previous mistakes. They find true happiness once they learn a little more about themselves. Every character in this book had their own demons to deal with and at one point Raphaela almost seemed like the most normal. I will be looking for more books from Sydney Allan.

Marla

Meetta says

I really enjoyed reading this book and watching the characters overcome their fears. I read this book in less than a day. I couldn't put it down and it made my time on the treadmill go even faster ;-). Look forward to reading other books by Sydney Allan

Cindy DeLong says

I really liked this book! I loved the way all the lose ends were tied up in the end. I found it odd that Faith had no problem with pre-marital sex, but refused to even consider living with someone outside of marriage. It seemed that Faith was worried about how she appeared to others and I wondered why the author didn't address this issue.

Lisa says

A very touching romance involving lots of different elements..

Saleh MoonWalker says

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Cindy says**Autism Story**

I really enjoyed this book. I could hardly put it down. Although it is a romance the emotions and stress of dealing with an autistic child have a large impact on the story.

Shelly Tilley says**Great book containing an autistic child!**

I don't read very many fiction books concerning autistic children, simply because there aren't very many out there. This book was great! I could have done without the few cuss words because they took away from the story a little. I have a hard time with a book that talks about God in such a real way and then uses words like that. But the parts about the child were wonderful! I never thought about art and autism together.

Colleen says

A heartfelt story about the loss of love, connecting with your child, and finding a real love to share your life with that understands you. I thought the book was a little wordy and repetitive at times, but overall a wonderful read that touched my heart.

Terry says

1/11/14

Shelley Chastagner says

A touching story with likable characters. Faith and Garret must face difficult relationships, learn to accept themselves and deal with one another honestly.

Adult situations make this an adult read.

Eden says

simple story, happy ending, nice "brainless" read if you don't want to read something that you have to think about very much. Not a very accurate depiction of autism. Not very many good sources to explain the disability out there in the media, sad to say.

