



The Wishing Jar

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Abby Quinn McDougall is a Southern lady whose once picturesque small-town life seems to be shrinking. Widowed at fifty and burdened by the care of an ailing mother and a cantankerous teenaged daughter, Abby wishes her life were simpler and her responsibilities fewer. Abby's daughter, Neal Grace, devastated by the loss of her doting father and the illness of her beloved grandmother, wishes for change, for the chance to break free from other people's expectations. And Abby's mother Edith wishes only to be liberated from life itself.

But wishes often backfire. As their wishes begin to come true, the Quinn women start to wonder: Could it be that their old life wasn't so bad after all? Is it possible that the answer to their deepest longings has been right in front of them, all along?

The Wishing Jar Details

Date : Published January 7th 2004 by Thomas Nelson (first published November 30th 2001)

ISBN :

Author : Penelope J. Stokes

Format : Kindle Edition 308 pages

Genre : Christian Fiction, Fiction, Christian

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From Reader Review The Wishing Jar for online ebook

Michael Alan Grapin says

"Be careful what you wish for because you just might get it" might well be the theme of this story about generations of strong willed women of character. Each woman seemed to get what she wished for using a ginger jar with a Phoenix motif that had been in the Quinn family for nearly a century. The first owner had dubbed it the wishing jar and it had been passed from generation to generation and always prominently displayed but the wishes that were wished turned out to be the wrong wishes once they got what they didn't realize was what they wanted all along. Magical, spiritual and an engaging page turner.

Diane Mueller says

I found myself tearing up in several places in this book. It was very touching family story. I found two quotes that I could feel in my soul. "When your trials come and they will come sooner or later don't look for answers look for love." When your faith is challenged but things that happen in your life you shouldn't ask God why this had to happen to you but instead ask for his love to help you face and get through it. The second quote was "Live so that when your time comes you can go down singing but as long as you live, live." No matter what health challenges or disabilities life may bring you shouldn't lose the joy of life. Enjoy ever last minute. Great book.

Terri says

Full of clichés. The characters have some troubles, fall into more bad dealings, and, of course in the end, everyone lives happily ever after. Somewhere the feeling is missing from the book. My favorite character is the grandmother, who has suffered a stroke and now, since her granddaughter and daughter are treating her with less than common dignity, wants to die, but even she turns saccharine in the end. Too, too sweet.

Louise says

Lovely story about three generations of the strong "Quinn" women.

From dust jacket:

"This is the legend attached to the Wishing Jar, handed down through five generations of the Quinn family. Great-Grandma Gracie purchased the painted ginger jar almost a hundred years ago, and now the beautiful little jar with the red-and-gold bird emblazoned on its side is as familiar as the family motto--"Purity of Heart, Faithfulness of Soul"--and the legacy of the 'strong Quinn women'.

But these days Abby, Edith, and Neal Grace--the last three generations of Quinn women--feel anything but strong, faithful, or pure. In recent years their happy family life has turned to ashes. Abby's beloved husband John Mac has been killed by a drunk driver. Her mother Edith has suffered a debilitating stroke. And her

daughter Neal Grace, at age seventeen, is struggling to cope with her grief over the loss of her father and the changes in her grandmother.

The Quinn women have long since stopped believing in wishes-come-true. They know all too well that the Wishing Jar cannot give them what they want. The painted phoenix appears to ruffle its feathers from time to time, but never quite seems to fly.

But then, without warning, things begin to change. Abby meets a perfectly nice, perfectly dependable man who wants to take care of her and shoulder the burdens she has had to bear alone. Neal Grace finds romance and adventure with a brooding, sensitive, auto mechanic. And Edith stumbles into a miracle--a leap into the past that just might reunite her with her long-dead husband Sam.

Their wishes are finally coming true. The problem is, attaining the fulfillment of your heart's desire can sometimes be a curse instead of a blessing.

What follows is a journey of discovery that changes the lives of Edith and Abby and Neal Grace. But will these three women ever understand the true meaning and power of their family legacy and, like the phoenix, rise again from the ashes?"

Susan says

A story spanning the legacy of 5 generations of Quinn women.... each one with a strong character and a strong faith. The story centers around a wishing jar passed down to each Quinn woman. The main character Abby, Abby's mother Edith, and Abby's daughter Neal must confront thier own pain, doubts and circumstance to remember what is important in life....love and faith. A quick light read.

Lisa Rathbun says

I did find this predictable but still enjoyable, although probably not one I'd read again. The characters didn't seem individual enough to me; they seemed more like stereotypes. I much preferred the flawed, more realistic characters in Francine Rivers' "Leota's Garden." I did like the lesson that we can't always find the "why" in our pain, but we can see that God's love is there.

I did think the motif of the Phoenix was cool, but a book that is a Christian novel but is also about a "magical" wishing jar seems a bit paradoxical. In moments of trial, the Quinn women relied on God, but they also had the jar to make wishes on, so their faith seemed tinged with superstition. Although the author tried to make it clear that the jar was more of an heirloom than a good luck charm, still it was confusing thematically.

Karina says

This wasn't bad but the ending was a bit pat for my tastes. Basically, a family owns a wishing jar which only grants wishes when the phoenix painted on the jar flies. Typically, when the family is in crisis is when the phoenix flies, granting wishes, solving dilemmas & basically reuniting the family.

Megan Fryman says

“When people ask why, they aren’t looking for an explanation, but for an affirmation. The promise that the world still holds meaning, that their lives are significant. That the presence is still with them, no matter how fierce the storm or how dark the night.”

“Wishes are like prayers. Some of them are answered in simple, uncomplicated ways. But others are far more complex than we can ever dream.”

This book was a find at a thrift store. It ended up being an amazing story about 3 women in a family dealing with all the things life throws at them. A test of their faith and their love for one another. So many amazing quotes that touched my heart. A great, uplifting read that reminds us all to look for the good in life and trust in God’s presence even in the darkest of nights.

Lisa says

I always enjoy her books.

Abby Quinn McDougall is a Southern lady whose once picturesque small-town life seems to be shrinking. Widowed at fifty and burdened by the care of an ailing mother and a cantankerous teenaged daughter, Abby wishes her life were simpler and her responsibilities fewer. Abby's daughter, Neal Grace, devastated by the loss of her doting father and the illness of her beloved grandmother, wishes for change, for the chance to break free from other people's expectations. And Abby's mother Edith wishes only to be liberated from life itself.

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Patricia E Yarian says

Wonderful

I enjoyed reading this book. The story drew you in and kept you there until the very end. Story tells of a strong family of women and how they have shouldered their burdens, their joys and their sadness. Enjoy the

read:---P/

Jodi says

I liked most of the book, but the middle was weird. It was like reading Scrooge and having no idea what was going on. The older lady got to see her past life and all her family members and touch and talk to some of them. I had a hard time with this. Will try one more by author and if not much better be done with her. In the end the story ended well though. The wishing jar had been in the family for over 100 years.

Brandy says

My friend/neighbor/and walking buddy, loaned me this book to read. What a GREAT book! Just a heartfelt story about Mothers/daughters/and grandma's. With some romance thrown in. I highly recommend this book to mother's/daughter's/Grandmother's/Granddaughter's. Just a perfect read for ANY and ALL of the generations of women in your family. I LOVED the Quinn women, Abby, her mother Edith, and Abby's teenage daughter, (Edith's Grandaughter), Neal Grace. I ABSOLUELY fell - IN - LOVE with Devin! :-) Couldn't stand Charles, or Mike from the beginning. The reason...The ONLY reason I gave this book 4 stars, instead of the full 5 was because the middle was kinda of hard to get in to, which made it drag. The beginning and end....COULD NOT PUT DOWN!!! Finished this book in 2 days!...The ending was great! Perfect! This story should TRULY be considered as a made- for - TV- movie, for Hallmark channel! :-)

Jess The Bookworm says

I really didn't know from the blurb on the book that this would be Christian fiction, but I just went with it once I found out, even though I'm not really in that frame of mind. Don't get me wrong, I really enjoy Francine Rivers, but those are just good novels all on their own, not just "good Christian fiction".

Anyway, this was a cute story with a sweet message. Nothing ground breaking, with characters which felt superficially developed, but it was an easy read.

Sandra says

My name was pulled from the local library's Adult Summer Reading Program's weekly drawing, and I was able to select from an assortment of books. This was a hard copy, but a rather petite book--so perfect for my carry-on bag to read on my recent vacation flight. I have not read much Christian Fiction before, but this book was a quick, light, somewhat predictable read and I would give it 3.5-4 stars.

C. says

I bought “**The Wishing Jar**” by chance. A woman talked our ear off at her garage sale. This novel seemed

magical but I strained to skim the synopsis and after purchasing it, expelled a flash of dismay that it wasn't very paranormal. I read it shortly, to cease grumbling. I would either like it or be glad I finished it.

This summer, our beloved young cat died! Cats are our dearest family; this son's unexpected loss so painful, I needed sentimental reading. I'm not into general fiction but under these circumstances, this story struck the right tones, soothed the right places in my soul. For resonating with me and being a wonderful story: I give four stars. A widow lives with her daughter and granddaughter, unable to visualize life after her own widowhood and a stroke. They are uneasy. The girl dates a jerk, the Mom dates a snob but is mesmerized by a violinist. She should pursue him, with striking remarks about doing what you love, not choosing careers by how much they earn. **"It isn't about making a living. It's about making a life!"**

It is Grandma who takes a magical journey via the titular heirloom, witnessing herself as a child and also observing the first owner of their family's jar. The most poignant part in all of the book, made me grateful that grief over my 4 year-old cat is understood well. We learn that Great-Grandma lost twin toddlers. A year and a half later, she cries in her diary: "It is unbearable that they could be gone, the same duration of time that they lived"! In four years, remembering this book will cheer me. I know our boy, **Love**, is so strongly engrained in our souls; that the brevity of time could never effect our bond.
