



I Wish

Elizabeth Langston

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What she needs is a miracle. What she gets is a genie with rules.

Lacey Linden has gotten good at hiding the truth of her life—a depressed mom, a crumbling house, and bills too big to pay. In school, she's a girl with a ready smile and good grades, but at night, Lacey spends her time dreaming up ways to save her family. On a get-cash-quick trip to the flea market, she stumbles over a music box that seemingly begs her to take it home. She does, only to find it is inhabited by a gorgeous "genie." He offers her a month of wishes, one per day, but there's a catch. Each wish must be humanly possible.

Grant belongs to a league of supernatural beings, dedicated to serving humans in need. After two years of fulfilling conventional wishes, he's one assignment away from promotion to a new job with more challenging cases. His month with Lacey is exactly what he expects and nothing like he imagines. Lacey and Grant soon discover that the hardest task of all might be saying goodbye.

"Langston wisely limits the power of wishes, so there can be no easy fixes to complex problems...putting the focus on the compelling and sympathetic characters." --School Library Journal

I Wish Details

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From Reader Review I Wish for online ebook

Sandy says

I've always wanted a genie. Since watching I Dream of Jeannie as a child, I wanted my own genie. I remember making up a list of things I would want from my genie so when I saw this novel on NetGalley I had to read it, I had to just see how Lacey handles her month of "humanly possible" wishes. Humanly possible wishes are wishes that don't require magic of any type, so she can't wish for bags of money, a cure for an illness or a new car. Her wishes have to humanly done or conceived. Her genie Grant is gorgeous and this becomes an issue later, as the bigger issues in her life become smaller. Her major issue now is money or lack of money. Her stepfather death and now her mother's depression has caused financial problems for the family and the financial situation lies on Lacey's lap. Granting one wish per day, she uses Grant's ability to help her family. Grant on the other hand, is confused with his placement; his daily reports transmitted to his boss reflect his thoughts and concerns about his assignment and what his future holds. Lacey wants to be 17 but this responsibility can't let her be the teen she wants to be. Grant is trying to hold on to his position as her genie but he sees what is going on within the family and he's struggling to be her servant.

There were many individuals who cared about Lacey and she kept them all within arm's reach. She never had them close but yet they stayed there reaching out to her as she pulled herself back, if they got too close. There was something about her, they all knew it. They cared enough to question Grants character, to question the man who worked for nothing. Many great friendships flowed between the pages in this novel. It was a fun entertaining read.

I received a copy of this novel from NetGalley and Spencer Hill Press in exchange for an honest review.

Abbie says

(I received a copy from Netgalley, In exchange for an honest review.)

Lacey had to deal with quite a lot in this, so I felt quite sorry for her.

This wasn't a bad read, but the pacing was really slow, which made the story drag for me. I wasn't a fan of the romance side of the book, which only made the dragging worse unfortunately.

Overall, Not bad, but not sure if I'll be continuing with the series.

Kira Simion says

[For wish#13/status report #13, I would've had Grant healed wi

The Y.A. Bookworm Blogger says

Review Originally Posted At: The Y.A. Bookworm Blogger

After reading the synopsis for *I Wish*, I immediately asked myself, "When was the last time you read a genie book?" The answer to that was "I HAVE NO IDEA BECAUSE I'M PRETTY SURE I'VE NEVER READ A GENIE BOOK!" (You may think the caps are an exaggeration, but no, my mind is just that crazy, haha)! Long story short, I knew that *I Wish* was a book that I really wanted to read and Spencer Hill Press was generous enough to send me a copy to review. I finished this book within a day and I'm overwhelmed by its adorable magic-ness!

Our main character, Lacey, is a teen who's been forced to be the grown-up in her house after her step-father's passing about a year ago. Lacey has had to take on the heavy responsibility of working while in school, paying the bills and taking after her younger brother, Henry, because her mom is stuck in a state of depression. One day when Lacey brings home a music box from the flea market, help in the form of an extremely good-looking genie appears. The genie-- who goes by the name Grant-- will grant (tehehe) Lacey one humanly possible wish a day for a month.

One of the things I really admire about this book is the fact that although it's a genie book, I didn't find it cheesy. Grant is not your typical Aladdin genie; he looks like an everyday human, has a British accent, and can make any girl swoon. It was interesting to see that although *I Wish* is a book about Lacey, we also see lots of growth in Grant's character through his 'Daily Reports' to his boss at the end of each chapter.

I always love reading books centered around strong, female heroines and *I Wish* definitely has one of those. Lacey is a character who puts everyone else first and is determined to do whatever she can to keep her family together. I couldn't help but admire her and cheer her on throughout the entire book.

Grant's entrance into Lacey's life really turns Lacey's world upside down. He's able to use her wishes to help fix up her house in the physical sense, but she is unprepared for the emotional changes Grant brings to her family. Grant plays an instrumental role in Lacey's growth as a character, and it's one of the reasons I enjoyed their relationship so much. Their romantic relationship had all of those good swoony things, but there was also a lot of understanding and vulnerability between them that made them work beautifully as a couple. My only complaint about *I Wish* is the way the relationship between the two of them was left off... I know this is supposed to be the first in a series but because we don't know whether the next book is still going to be about Lacey, I'm a little disappointed.

Rayleigh says

Now that my heart has been ripped from me, I shall try to find words that accurately describe this stunning story.

At first look, this may appear to be a sappy high school romance with some feel good scenes, and as much as I enjoy YA Romances, I'm so glad that this book was more than that. Lacey and Grant are certainly the main characters, but the story is centered around repairing the brokenness of Lacey's family, not their impossible romance. And to me, that was so much better.

I admired how Lacey handled her complicated life. She is a character who is self-reliant and a "get-it-done" girl who always puts her brother and her mother first, even if that means she has to give up the rest of her

childhood so her 8-year-old brother can have a good one. She denies herself so many things that other teen girls take for granted and she battles realistic fears. I genuinely grew to love her and her family alike.

Grant is easy to love. He is patient, understanding, and cares deeply for this family that is so broken. Despite the fact that he's a genie and literally has a timer for how much longer he has with them, he opens himself up to them and goes above and beyond what is wished of him.

Also, my close experience with family and friends being in the military (my sister is in the Navy and my two best friends are Marines), made me immensely appreciative of the honor and respect given to our military in this book. There are several distinct scenes that have the sole purpose of honoring our fallen heroes.

I loved everything about this book really, but the last thing I'll mention specifically is the fact that Lacey and her brother Henry loved their step-father just as much as their real dad. And I believe that is huge in today's literature. So many books and movies portray step family members as symbols of hate, and that's simply not fair. There are many step families that have problems, sure, but there are also many that are blessings. So seeing the good image given to a step-dad for once in a YA book, pleased me more than I would have thought it would.

I Wish definitely receives a full 5 out of 5 stars from me along with a warning that there is a decent amount of cursing and several kisses, but nothing more.

This is a LiteratureApproved.com Review. I was not required to write a review.

Sarah says

(Source: I received a digital copy of this for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to FictionEtc Press and NetGalley.)

“My official title is ‘Benevolent Supernatural Being.’”

This was an okay paranormal romance, but the pace was pretty slow.

I felt quite sorry for Lacey in this story, coping with her mother's depression was bad enough, without having the worries of paying the mortgage and keeping her family fed. The way that everybody kept telling her that 'all she thought about was money' was also unfair because she needed to think about money or they'd end up on the streets!

The storyline in this was a bit mushy, and I didn't really like the romance. The rules concerning when genie's could grant were pretty awful – no such thing as 'can't kill anybody, can't make anyone fall in love, and can't bring anyone back from the dead', oh no, these rules were much worse! What use is a genie if he won't use magic, can't do anything that a human can't, and won't make you rich?! Not much use in my opinion.

The ending to this was okay, but it did leave certain things open, which I wasn't really happy about.

Melanie says

Lacey's life is rough. After her stepfather's death, her mother hasn't been able to cope with life so she has taken on the responsibility of running the household. She has an 8-year-old brother, Henry, and she works hard to make sure he has a somewhat normal life. While at the flea market one day, she picks up a music box which she soon discovers is housing a handsome genie named Grant. He is able to grant one wish per day for a month which need to be humanly possible.

It was fun to see the changes Lacey went through during that month. I can't imagine how difficult her life was and it had to have been a relief to have someone to lean on and help her out. She was fun to get to know as she dealt with friend, family and relationship issues. I honestly wasn't sure where the romance would be in this book and was a little surprised at the direction it went. I enjoyed it, though, and also wasn't surprised at how it left off.

Grant, the genie, went through lots of changes as well. At the end of each chapter, he submits status reports to his boss and we get some insight into his thoughts and feelings. He's not impressed with Lacey at first but his opinion changes over time and he learns valuable lessons throughout the book.

This was a fun book to read from beginning to end! When I got done, I was glad I had the next one to start reading right away!

I received a copy of this book to review. My opinion is 100% my own.

Mel's Shelves

Laurie Brumbaugh says

I loved this book up until the last few chapters. The ending dropped this book from four stars to three for me. I know some reviewers would think this is unfair, but a book's ending can change my whole perception. This is an ending that some people will love and others, like me, will hate. It's well-written and one could make the argument for its realism. But that's not what I typically look for in books (why I prefer fantasy). Life is hard and I usually read to escape. When it comes to romance, I want my HEA. That's what I was hoping for in this book, and it did not deliver. It just left me feeling sad and I hate feeling that way at the end of a book I've invested in emotionally. Since it looks like the next book in the series follows this MC's friend instead of her, I don't really have an interest in reading it. I will wait to see the reviews.

This book was mostly fun, fast-paced, quirky, and well-written and I know many readers will enjoy it despite the ending. But for now, I am disappointed.

Alisa says

I didn't know what to expect with this book, but I honestly didn't want to put it down! It was too much to

read in one sitting, but I kept coming back to it as fast as I could!

Lacey is a strong character. Her father died when she was young, and her stepfather has recently died. Her mother has fallen apart, and Lacey is trying to make ends meet while not letting anyone know the poverty they are in. She is keeping it all together for her younger brother - her biggest fear is that people will find out how bad things are and that CPS will take her younger brother away.

Lacey needs help, and she gets it... in the form of a Supernatural Being, i.e. Genie named Grant. Grant has all kinds of rules - she gets 30 wishes in 30 days, no more than one wish a day, and it has to be humanly possible. What Lacey thinks she needs isn't humanly possible... Grant is arrogant and thinks he knows everything about Lacey. But even he is surprised at how much she is covering up and his opinions of her begin to change. He has never worked with a human that was so selfless and strong. I really liked getting Grant's POV at the end of each chapter.

I loved the other characters in this book, too... Her little brother Henry who tried so hard to not be another burden on Lacey, Eli who was so patient and kind, and there for her whether or not she wanted him to be, and Kimberley with her unusual disability added another interesting layer to this story.

Some things in this book didn't go the way I expected or maybe even wanted them to go, but that just made me love it even more. This was the first book I have read by this author, but it won't be the last...

Content: Clean, some mild swearing

Source: Review Copy (opinion is 100% my own)

~Kate~ says

I was given a review copy of this book via netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

I love this cover and the main reason is that it does feel as though it's a part of the story making it a very inviting book. I also love the font style as it's not a plain and simple font which is a nice change.

This is my first time reading a book on genie's and I found it a nice change to the usual paranormal you get. From the very moment I started this book I knew I was going to enjoy it as it was easy to follow which I sometimes find hard in paranormal books as they can get so confusing but not in this case. The who paranormal side of the story was told to the main character right from the start which is also unusual as usually there's this big climatic reveal but that doesn't happen in this book and I found that I liked it this way. The romance side of the story was a very slow build which was nice but I do feel as though it pretty much came out of the blue. The other storyline of this book was the whole family issues which I felt was tackled in a very sensitive and genuine way. For me it was the ending that had me lowering the rating as for most of the book it was going to be a 5 * book but the ending just let it down. Even though this book is a part of a series I think the next book is going to be a new main character which makes me feel disappointed that the way this ended there was no real closure for the main character, I do hope that we will see more of Lacey so I know where she is at in her life.

There wasn't many characters that I didn't like in this book which was a nice change I think overall there was maybe one character that I didn't like. Lacey was a great female character that had to grow up fast and look after her family and the household making her a very determined character. I loved the way she was with her

brother their relationship was so sweet. I also loved it when she let her hair down and had a bit of fun. I loved that we got to know a little bit of what Grant was feeling with his letters to his boss as it was then giving us the chance to understand where he was coming from a little bit better. I do think during most of the book Grant wasn't the most realistic of characters and he seemed a bit mono toned but there was times when he would act out of character and it was nice to see.

Overall a great start to what I hope is going to be a great series and I for one I'm looking forward to see where this series is going to take us.

Farrah says

A richly captivating and lovely YA read, *I Wish* was definitely a great book. From its well portrayed emotions to the engaging characters, this book was wonderful and I really liked it.

Lacey was definitely a strong character. Her father had died when she was young, her stepfather died a few years later, and her mother fell off the deep end after dealing (or not dealing, I guess) with all that grief. That left Lacey to taking care of her catatonic mother and little brother. She was certainly tough, protective over her family, and determined to do anything to take care of them. My only complaint is that her strength became stubbornness on a couple of occasions, when she was stuck on seeing other people's kindness as pity rather than a friend helping a friend. Other than that, though, I thought she was great.

Grant was good as well. His character was a little more shaky. On one had, he had some great character growth. At the end of each chapter, there was a report on that day's wish that he would send to his boss and I liked how his mindset and tone changed as the book went on. Not to mention how sweet he was and how caring he was of not only Lacey, but her mother and brother. However, at the same time, I didn't feel like we got to fully know his character. Things like his past, his true thoughts of his job. Basically anything about him that didn't pertain specifically to his happenings with Lacey's family was left out and that kept his character from being as deep as he could be. But, overall, I still liked him.

The romance was light, but worked really well. I thought Lacey and Grant were great together, though after that ending I wonder how things will go for them.

The plot was steadily paced. This author really does a great job of drawing the reader into the story with the captivating language and richly emotional world she creates, so that made sure I was kept engaged all the way through. I really liked the story and the ending has me curious to find out what happens next.

I Wish was a lovely YA read that I really enjoyed. With its realistically drawn characters and deep emotions, this book was definitely great. YA lovers, this is a book worth checking out.

*I received a complimentary copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review

Cátia says

*I was provided an eARC by FictionEtc Press via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

When I read the blurb for this book I decided that I needed to read it mostly because I never read a genie book. However this is not a simple genie book, it's like a contemporary book, that I love, with a little bit of fantasy. I really liked this book and couldn't stop reading which means that someone (me :P) stayed up reading until 3 am and ended up reading this book in one-sitting.

The main character, Lacey, has a lot of problems. Her family doesn't have money for food and she has to be the grown-up because of her mother's depression. In one trip to the flea market Lacey gets a music box that happens to have a genie, Grant (can we talk about the great name? :P), inside. Of course that with this development a lot happens and Grant starts helping Lacey. One thing I liked is that this is not like normal genie stories. Lacey has the right to 30 humanly possible wishes (one a day) instead of the normal 3 wishes. This was great because it allowed to see the characters development in that time frame. Another thing I really liked was that the romance in this book wasn't insta-love. You can see their growing feelings through the month. I also enjoyed how in the end of each chapter we could read Grant's letters to his boss with daily developments because you can really see his growth through the letters. I really liked all the characters, especially Lacey little brother Henry, and I loved to see that a lot of people really cared about her even if the thought that no one wanted to care about her. My main problem with this book was the ending. I needed more and I needed other things to happen but I understand why the author decided to write that ending. Overall, this was a cute fast pacing book and if you want to read a cute contemporary book with a little bit of magic you should give this one a try. I know that I will be reading the next book in the series because I need to know more and read more about these characters.

JenacideByBibliophile says

Disclaimer: This book was sent to me by the publisher, FictionETC Press, via NetGalley for an honest review.

Opinion: This is a very sweet YA story that is sure to grab your attention and keep it. Even if you think this story is predictable and will turn out in the way you suspect, it doesn't.

Lacey Linden is struggling with the burden of being the sole provider for her family, as well as still being in high school. Due to the death of her step-father, Lacey's mother has become overly depressed and "checked out". Due to her mother, Crystal, not being able to work and bring money into their home, Lacey has been left to deal with the responsibilities of taking care of her little brother Henry and paying their various bills and debt. But after Lacey purchases a music box from the flea market, her entire world changes. After Lacey arrives home and begins polishing the music box, to her astonishment, a genie by the name of Grant appears. Grant explains to Lacey that she will receive one wish each day for a month. But instead of Lacey wasting each wish on herself, she focuses on how to make money, spruce up her family's home, and help her family become whole again.

I wanted to start out by saying that I wasn't too thrilled about how this book began, purely because it felt rushed. Maybe I am just used to the beginning of a story being slow so that the author can allow time for the reader to get acquainted with the characters and the situations, but this felt much too thrown together. However, once Grant gets introduced into the picture the story keeps a steady pace until the end.

The character of Lacey feels highly realistic to me. She has been placed into the role of being the parent of her household, and tries very hard to keep her family together. She over obsesses about their money issues,

looks over her younger brother as if he were her child, and tries to manage school and a job all at once. I think that Lacey was extremely hard on her mother, even considering the circumstances that her mother has placed her in. I think she has a right to be angry, but obviously that wasn't helping anyone's situation. The idea of bringing a genie into this story and giving it a nice twist by only allowing the wishes to be completed if they were humanely possible was brilliant. I think it helps the reader appreciate the character of Grant more because he has to learn each skill that he possesses, as well as do all of the work on his own. The romance between Lacey and Grant was cute, but not as thrilling and exceptional as I hoped it would be. I think it could have been a little more developed and lead into something more special than how it was portrayed, simply put, this felt rushed as well. But other than those few things, I loved reading this book. I was addicted and stayed awake so that I could finish it and find out what happened.

Overall, this is perfect for young adult readers (maybe a little bit of a younger age group) who love a little romance and some magic. I also received the second book, *Wishing For You*, which I cannot wait to read...purely because I need to know what happens after the author just left me HANGING at the end of this book. ;)

Scarlet Wilson says

I really enjoyed this book told from the POV of the young girl and the genie. It was an interesting format as his POV is in letters to his boss reporting the day he's just had.

I thought this book explored how grief affects a family without being too grim. Looking forward to the follow up.

Aly says

I don't know about you but I love books about genies! I loved *I Dream of Genie* when I was younger. This book is a new and different way to look at genies. A genie that can only grant wished humanly possible? Grant can't use magic on wish for anyone but his own wishes. I enjoyed this different way to look at genies. The book had me all the way through. Lacey and her family needed help and a genie they shall receive. I loved it!
