



The Precious One

Marisa de los Santos

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From the bestselling author of *Belong to Me, Love Walked In, and Falling Together* comes a captivating novel about friendship, family, second chances, and the redemptive power of love

In all her life, Eustacia “Taisy” Cleary has given her heart to only three men: her first love, Ben Ransom; her twin brother, Marcus; and Wilson Cleary — professor, inventor, philanderer, self-made millionaire, brilliant man, breathtaking jerk: her father.

Seventeen years ago, Wilson ditched his first family for Caroline, a beautiful young sculptor. In all that time, Taisy’s family has seen Wilson, Caroline, and their daughter Willow only once.

Why then, is Wilson calling Taisy now, inviting her for an extended visit, encouraging her to meet her pretty sister — a teenager who views her with jealousy, mistrust, and grudging admiration? Why, now, does Wilson want Taisy to help him write his memoir?

Told in alternating voices — Taisy’s strong, unsparing observations and Willow’s naive, heartbreakingly earnest yearnings — *The Precious One* is an unforgettable novel of family secrets, lost love, and dangerous obsession, a captivating tale with the deep characterization, piercing emotional resonance, and heartfelt insight that are the hallmarks of Marisa de los Santos’s beloved works.

The Precious One Details

Date : Published by William Morrow (first published March 24th 2015)

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From Reader Review The Precious One for online ebook

Melinda says

I thought this book was good, I know the general audience disagrees and feels it is outstanding, obviously I am the minority.

Several sensitive subject matters are addressed. The cast is lively and diverse. The writing is liquid gold, just flows from each page. Weaving several plots is accomplished seamlessly.

The areas I found problematic - the heavy topics introduced didn't have the weighty closure called for, a big no no for this reader. If you are going to broach sensitive topics please follow through with appropriate consequences, solutions. Glossing over meaty issues isn't the way it should be done, at least in my eyes. As is the issues are utterly predictable and impractical. The level of predictability is incredibly high. The stereotype for homeschooled children is typical and often a misnomer, I know, my son was homeschooled by yours truly and was a social butterfly as most homeschooled children are. Willow grated my nerves, her behavior was childlike especially for a 16 year old.

A good read, perhaps I approached it more seriously than I should have, you decide how it suits your rating spectrum.

Vanessa says

The two characters of Taisy and Willow were both well drawn with distinct characteristics making it easy to follow both sets of stories. The writing was ok and plot wise it was interesting enough to keep my attention. I just found the dialogue a little bit forced and unrealistic at times, plus I almost gave up on the book as the narrator voicing Willow got on my nerves so much so that I switched over to reading the book instead and it seemed to make the book more tolerable and even enjoyable.

Maria says

There were multiple issues I had with this book but probably the most frustrating one was that none of the characters seemed to behave in a realistic manner. I also had serious problems when it came to actually liking and relating with either of the protagonists. Despite their different backgrounds and age gap, found the voices of the two sisters to be too similar. And what on Earth was it with that soap opera ending? I also didn't appreciate the fact that we never get to find out why the father behaved so differently with his kids. It seems he was simply determined from the very beginning to adore his second wife and daughter and hate the first ones. Or better said, the author simply wanted him to behave like this for no reason whatsoever. Alltogether a too ambitious project that could have definitely been better had some narrative threads been dropped (the Bec story, Taisy's friend, the aunt... Just to name a few).

?Karen says

Taisy agrees to meet up with her estranged father Wilson and his strange new family after being summoned from his sick bed. A very full-of-himself scientist/professor, he wants Taisy to ghost write the story of his rise to success. Unfortunately for the spoiled, beloved, teenager Willow, the only by-product of his new marriage, that means sharing her father for the first time with someone else, as Taisy moves into their pool house to begin her research. Willow feels contempt and jealousy towards Taisy. Not to worry, though, because to hear Wilson talk about his daughter Willow, it is obvious he will never use the "daughter" word when referring to his firstborn Taisy. Wilson is a despicable man, much too obvious in his adoration for his precious Willow. For Taisy, though, she sees this as her chance to overcome some issues with her father, get to know Willow, and see what her old flame Ben has been up to following their ugly breakup 17 years prior, which was thanks to Wilson.

The plot is thickened when Willow, home schooled all her life, suddenly is enrolled in public school and must learn to cope with cliques, a teacher with improper intentions, gossip, and young love. Taisy takes on her new role as the older sister, and it was rather touching how their relationship does an about face and we see Willow gradually assimilate into a more normal, likeable teenager than she ever was before.

Maybe a little predictable and not entirely believable, but the author writes with such wit, intelligence, and sensitivity that I just went along for the ride and looked forward to whatever was coming. Thanks to Goodreads first reads for an Advanced Readers Edition.

Roxanne Meek says

I wanted to take my time writing this review to do the book justice and to think about all of the things Marisa and The Precious One gave me. I was given an Advanced Reader's Edition which arrived Christmas Eve (I know... A gift right?) and it was indeed. Even with all of the craziness of Christmas I couldn't put it down. Written in 2 voices similar to Love Walked In, one older sister Taisy and one younger, a teen of 16 Willow, it flipped back and forth between them softly and effortlessly. Willow was my favorite character and I loved her from the minute I met her. The story itself doesn't disappoint and flies by in sad and tragic ways right up until the ending, which you think is all coming together in a nice neat happy package, and then it doesn't.

The book is full of soft and gentle words and sentences that are warm and cover you like a blanket. Marisa de los Santos's writing fills my heart in this way. "I remember being hot, hot in that rosy cheeked, hair stuck to your forehead, baked bread way that you get in winter, when you're 6". Or, "I wondered what it would be like to do something so well, to carry that around in your body like a secret, every day, all the time." There are so many quotes that I loved but you have to read the book to really appreciate them.

For anyone who hasn't read any other of Marisa de los Santos's books, read them all. They are all wonderful. The Precious One comes out in March 2015. Mark the day and buy yourself a gift to read, enjoy and pass on to someone you love. I guarantee you will be reading them all because "Yeah well it's true that once you've had wonder, it's hard to get used to not having it." 5 Stars!! xxoo

Susan Liston says

Well it pains me to give this book one star, because it started out with such promise. I have never read this author before but I loved the way she writes, and I was quite engrossed for a time. Then it took a big jump off the cliff and fell into a stale pool of chick-lit-ish nonsense. The seemingly cruel father, who started out as an intriguing character, loses all credibility and becomes just silly. The half-sisters, one 35, one 16, who tell the story in alternating chapters, BOTH end up with The Perfect Man...one per book is bad enough, but TWO? And one has a yorkie named "Pidwit", because that is how he said "Piglet" as a child? And the teenage boyfriend is late taking his handsome swimmer's bod to practice because he is so engrossed with his discussion with our heroine of "Middlemarch"?? MIDDLEMARCH. Enough enough, I do not want to projectile vomit on a library book. The second we discover that a young male teacher is "showing an interest" in our teenage sister I thought, please don't turn out to be a either a pathetic loser or a psycho perv (He did, how about a little of both?) No spoilers here, this book was VERY predictable. Because I did like her writing so much, I am willing to investigate her other books, hopefully this one was just a misfire.

Carol Brill says

A well written story, with sensitively drawn point of view characters, about relationships of every kind-- parent/child, siblings, first love, lost lost, and a creepy one I won't describe so I don't spoil it.

Thirty-something Eustacia aka "Taisy" yearns for her brilliant, self-centered father's love even though he abandoned her, her twin brother, Marcus, and their Mom years ago. Wilson, was a cold, critical, jerk of a father to Marcus and Taisy. He is totally different with his new family, clearly worshipping his sheltered, home-schooled, teenage daughter, Willow. After, a serious heart attack, Wilson sends for Taisy. Even though he has ignored her for years, she can't resist his invitation, hoping he finally realizes he loves her, too. Told from Taisy and Willow's alternating points of view, the story that unfolds reveals heartbreakin family secrets and the healing power of family bonds.

Therese Walsh says

When a willfull, overbearing father feels he's failed with his first family--or they've failed him--he makes a choice. Start over. This is a story about two very different sisters, a generation apart, and the unusual way they face a family crisis--and the past. Poignant, funny, quirky, and full of voice. I loved every page of this novel, and can't remember a time that I smiled more while reading a book. Wonderful characters, structure, and voice. The Precious One will definitely be at home on my Keeper Shelf.

Jan says

I have read and liked de los Santos' three previous novels. My note after reading "Falling Together" was "Just loved this -- the humor, the wit, the writing, the wisdom, the characters, the sensitivity, the understanding of human nature." I looked forward to her newest work.

But alas, what may have fallen together in the third novel just fell totally apart in the fourth, at least for me. I am honestly stunned that the only aspect I can praise in "The Precious One" is the writing.

Let's start with arrogant, controlling, bewildering, very unlikeable Wilson Cleary, who has wreaked havoc in the lives of nearly all of his family members, those he inexplicably abandoned as well as those he supported. Yet Wilson remains one-dimensional throughout, with only weak efforts to explain the causes of his behaviors. His two daughters, from Wilson's two marriages, come together when Taisie is 35 and Willow 16. Each holds a dim view of the other, and each yearns to please Wilson, the rejected daughter as much as, if not more than, the precious one, apple-of-her-father's-jaded-eye. Since the story is told from the two women's viewpoints, you can predict that they do not remain enemies for long, though it's a rough road to understanding each other and how to stand up to their father.

But what about other Wilson-infected characters, his son, his first wife, his sister? We know their feelings, we even see them at events which Wilson attends (against his wishes), but no resolution is offered for them.

Then there are the romances, the truest, truest love contrasted with the very creepiest, the former way over the top for high-schoolers, the latter also left unresolved and in a most unsatisfying way. And the melodrama as the novel's end approached left me shaking my head.

All this and no humor, wit, or wisdom, and only little sensitivity and understanding of human nature. I waited for redemption, I wanted it, but with none I just really, really could not like "The Precious One."

Catherine McKenzie says

I was lucky enough to get an early copy of this book and I raced through it in a couple of days. In fact, it was the first time in a while that I had been completely engrossed in a book. Marisa de los Santos' books are always effortless reads and this is no exception. A unique family story about two very different sisters who begin as strangers and end up saving one another. Highly recommend.

Diane S ? says

I was reading all the reviews of four and five stars and wondering why this book didn't affect me the way it did many of the other readers. Not that there is anything wrong with this book, it was good, a comfort read if you will and somewhat predictable. I enjoyed the character of Taisie but found the character of Willow at times irritating. Think at sixteen she acted very child like, in the book this seems to be the result of homeschooling, awkwardness in social settings. Although I suppose there are children who are homeschooled that have this problem, I know many including my son's wife and her nor her siblings acted anything like this.

Did deal with some weighty issues in a respectful way and that I appreciated. So for me this was good, but not anything as special as other readers seem to find it.

ARC from publisher.

Karin says

Taisie and Willow, very nearly one generation apart, sisters who don't know each other, are thrown together

when their father, Wilson, invites Taisy to visit after he suffers a heart attack. Marisa de los Santos does a lovely job of the two intertwining stories each sister tells. While this is not literary fiction and so doesn't dig into the pithy depths of everything, it is fine story telling nevertheless. My favourite novel of de los Santos' is still *Love Walked In*, but this still warrants 4 stars.

BookLover says

The Precious One is my first read by Marisa de los Santos. She is a fantastic storyteller. I LOVED this book. I found Taisy and Willow's alternating voices completely engaging.

Taisy had unresolved issues from her past, but she didn't let them get in the way of striving for happiness. I loved her interactions with each and every character in the book. She was very likeable and her main flaw, as I saw it, was her desire to get love and approval from the one source that was never willing to give it to her.

Willow was young, innocent and painfully awkward from a sheltered upbringing. Her narrative was funny and heartwarming. She was so skewed in her view on her sister and life in general, thanks to Wilson's almost singular influence on her.

The two story lines, which intersected throughout the story were beautifully told. Though I found myself momentarily annoyed when a chapter switched to the alternating point of view, it didn't take long to get engrossed in the story again.

Ben, Caro and even Marcus were all great additions to the story and how it unfolded. Ben, in particular, was a favourite of mine.

I can honestly say that Wilson had **NOT ONE** redeeming character trait and I truly hated him. I'm still not clear on whether that was the point or if I was supposed to soften to him based on his relationship with Willow and stories of his past. If that was the point, I missed it.

Despite the absence of a "perfect" happy ending where everything gets tied up into a pretty bow, the ending was very satisfying and gave me everything I was hoping to get from the story.

Great story! I will definitely be reading more by this author.

Myrna says

5★s for the audiobook! The narrators did an outstanding job!

The Precious One is a well written, character driven, chick lit book told through alternating POVs. I definitely found myself caring about the characters, except for Wilson, their father. The author did a great job of portraying Wilson in an unsympathetic, unpleasant manner. Besides complex family dynamics, the novel includes some teen angst, love, and a few surprises. I highly recommend the audiobook.

Kathleen says

I loved this book! Marisa's writing is like no one else's, and the characters leap off the page. A poignant, funny, beautifully told story about the ties that bind—and sometimes fray and break. It's a story about siblings, and parents and children, and lovers, and the odd ways families fall apart and come together. Willow, who's 16, is brilliant but so sheltered that she has little idea how to cope with a real world filled with delight and danger in equal measure. Her once-estranged sister Taisy is solving puzzles of her own, from the mystery of her aloof father's past to the tangled puzzle of feelings she has for her former boyfriend, Ben. I was sorry to turn the last page so I couldn't live with Taisy and Willow a little longer.
