



Her Every Wish

Courtney Milan

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Crash has never let the circumstances of his birth, or his lack of a last name, bother him. His associations may be unsavory, but money, friends, and infamy open far more interesting doors than respect ever could. His sole regret? Once lovely, sweet Daisy Whitlaw learned the truth about how he made his fortune, she cut him off.

Daisy's father is dead, her mother is in ill health, and her available funds have dwindled to a memory. When the local parish announces a Christmas charity bequest to help young people start a trade, it's her last chance. So what if the grants are intended for men? If she's good enough, she might bluff her way into a future.

When Crash offers to show her how to swagger with confidence, she knows he is up to no good. But with her life in the balance, she's desperate enough to risk the one thing she hasn't yet lost: her heart.

Her Every Wish Details

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From Reader Review Her Every Wish for online ebook

steph says

I read this a few days ago and as such, don't recall much. I do remember that overall I felt it was cute and I liked the whole "chase your dreams" theme but I also felt that for a historical novel, there were a lot of current day themes in it. Sometimes it felt like 2018 characters talking (I'm not sure if that makes sense, I wish I could recall exact examples but I do recall a few moments when reading when I thought it sounded too modern and forward thinking for that time period).

Still good though. Milan writes good characters. Reading book #2 as soon as one of my libraries gets a copy in.

Daniella says

Buddy read with the amazing sraxe! Thank you for putting up with my overly dramatic comments, dear.

Before I start talking about my experience with this novella, I encourage you guys to read the reviews that my pals sraxe and Nenia wrote (links are at the bottom). They both gave this 5 stars, and have some amazing insights that I think are worth sharing.

Okay. On to the review.

Her Every Wish solidified my love for Courtney Milan. I won't even be surprised if someone told me that she could walk on water and could raise people from the dead, because it seems that there's nothing this woman can't do.

I'd always thought that novellas can't achieve the level of depth that a full-length book can offer, but she proved me wrong. This didn't even feel as though it was a novella; I was too swept away by the story to be concerned by its length. The pacing was absolutely perfect, and her writing was nothing short of brilliant.

Like I said, it's like there's nothing Courtney Milan can't do. She's like Moses out to deliver us from the clutches of badly written romances.

So if the writing was so great, why did I give this 3 stars, you ask?

Well, I was a put off by something that happened between the characters, something that triggered my asshole alarm.

You see, (view spoiler)

Things got worse:

He pulled his arm from her. "Do you forgive me for taking wagers?"

"Of course."

"You forgive me my former lovers, I assume."

"Naturally."

Instead of appeasing him, each answer of hers made his face even more dangerous. "You forgive me for being a bastard, I suppose."

"You know I do."

His voice was low and cutting. "Next, you'll forgive me my aunt and my mother. You'll forgive me for not having English features, for the color of my skin, for—"

Which culminated to this:

***"I forgive you your utter ignorance in bed,"** he had continued, "and your maidenly qualms. Hell, I'll forgive you your very existence in return. Even though, as these things are reckoned, you are a complete waste of a woman."*

(hide spoiler)]

Oh, boy.

breathes in

breathes out

Yes, both of them made mistakes, but I felt that Crash's savage attacks were too unfair. This was a woman he was considering of marrying, and I just couldn't fathom how he could've jumped to the wrong conclusions about her. He must have sensed that she didn't mean "I forgive you" as an attack. Hell, he SHOULD'VE sensed that. At the very least, he should've given her a chance to explain before cutting her like that and saying that she was complete fucking waste.

Why didn't he give her the benefit of the doubt? Why did he assume the worst about her from the get-go? Why?

Plus, she just gave him her fucking virginity. That was a big deal, especially given the setting. Sure, Crash might not have understood the importance of this because of the environment he grew up in, but that doesn't excuse him for going on a freakin' ragefest immediately after sex. Hell, the sheets haven't even cooled from their lovemaking, and he'd already insulted her.

What the fuck.

Look, when I read romance novels, I internalize the character of the heroine. That's why I get so mad if the hero does something that I can't stand. If my boyfriend did this to me in real life, he'd be swimming with the fishes by the time I was through with him.

Call me unforgiving, I don't really care. This really took out the enjoyment I got from reading the novella, and I honestly couldn't support the two in the end.

It was a shame because Daisy and Crash were really well-written characters. I just couldn't completely forgive him for what he said. I wanted more grovelling, damn it.

Overall, though, this was an enjoyable--albeit extremely emotional--read. I highly recommend it for fans and newbies alike.

srax's Review: <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Nenia's Reveiw: <http://readasaurus.blogspot.com/2016/...>

Ash says

3.75 stars.

3.5 for the story and an extra .25 for the writing.

The writing as usual is exquisite

As a story I enjoyed this, I liked reading about Daisy's journey and her eventual triumph as a romance however it falls a little short. I never connected with them as a couple, never felt the emotion and the romance didn't seem as fully fleshed out as those in Courtney Milans's other books.

Full disclosure: I judge Courtney Milan books more harshly than those penned by mere mortals

Natalie says

This time, you don't waver You don't stop. You don't apologize. You believe that you're right, that you can win, that you deserve it. And you don't let up."

I CRIED READING THIS ON THE TRAIN ON THE WAY HOME FROM WORK.

COURTNEY MILAN IS EVERYTHING. POC HERO THAT IS ADORABLE AND GREAT AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN WOMEN AND BELIEVING WOMEN CAN SUCCEED AND WOMEN ARE NOT WORTHLESS AND WORTH MORE THAN THEIR BEAUTY THANK YOU COURTNEY!!!!

Lo says

the sort of book everyone needs in their life imo. ilu courtney

Sissy's Romance Book Review says

I received an eARC, from NetGalley and the publisher, in exchange for an honest review.

'Her Every Wish' by Courtney Milan is 1.5 in the "The Worth Sagabook" It is the story of Daisy Whitlaw and Crash. I really felt it was a 3.5 star but didn't have that option here. This a Novella so it is a short..emotional read. I really was frustrated with Crash and some of his actions/words. But I love Ms. Milan writing and just having her name on this book makes me love it... not to mention she always has such good book covers. Anyway this was another good book that you don't want to miss.

Please follow more reviews at the below sites:

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Keri says

3.5 Stars. Crash and Daisy had a past, but Daisy is over that. Now her focus is winning the local contest where the winner gets 50 pounds to start up a business. The rules don't say that is for strictly for men, so Daisy slips in on that loophole and dreams of Daisy's Emporium. Of course Daisy is jeered at and worse at times. Crash has come back into her life in order to help Daisy win. She thinks he has bets going against her winning the contest and trying to pad the outcome, but he has a whole different agenda that involves Daisy's heart. This was a good addition to this new series and we did meet Daisy in the first book. Crash and Daisy make a good couple, but be warned, CM doesn't sugar coat how women are treated during this time. Well worth the price, but can't wait for the next one.

Giedre says

3.5/5

I would've loved seeing these characters in a full-length novel.

Heather *Awkward Queen and Unicorn Twin* says

This is my second Courtney Milan. I had thought she wasn't an author for me, since I didn't much care for *The Duchess War*, but I'm happy to report I enjoyed this one!

While I did feel Crash and Daisy slipped a little too quickly into easy, playful banter after "hating" each other for months, the rest of the book was really good. It was a heartwarming romance, and I lurrvvved the emotional upheaval I experienced around 55-56%. Yes, I was misty-eyed.

I'll definitely be checking out more Milan in the future.

Jill says

2.5 stars

Daisy Whitlaw is determined to improve her lot in life for herself and her ill mother. With a fifty pound charity bequest up for grabs to the most promising business, Daisy gamely enters her proposal for *Daisy's Emporium of Handpicked Goods*. When her confidence in her idea starts to ebb, her friend, Crash comes to her rescue. Crash, no stranger to promising business ideas, is keen to start up his own, selling and maintaining velocipedes.

Set in Bristol, England 1866, this novella is the second story in *The Worth Saga* series. Both Daisy and Crash are from the working class. Daisy is friends with Judith Worth, the heroine of book #1, *Once Upon a Marquess*. As Ms Milan often does, she sets the story outside the box, not only with a lower-class couple in *trade*, but with a hero who is of mixed race. Even Crash doesn't know his exact heritage, though he knows his grandmother was a black slave.

This novella is an improvement over *Once Upon a Marquess*, but is still not *great*. Issues abound, for me at least. In the past what I've loved about Courtney Milan's romances, is that they're more than mere romance. There's always a message. Ms Milan's didacticism, which has always been a strength, becomes this story's biggest weakness. Here she reiterates the message (and what I mean by that is, she clobbers the reader over the head) to not let society, regardless of your sex or station in life, push you around. She pounds this message to such an extreme that it leaves little room for any romance.

Her Every Wish is more a story of Daisy's growth, her empowerment and that regardless of someone's sex, sexual orientation, race, job or status, everyone matters. And that's *fine*, but as a romance it's a great piece of general fiction.

My other main issue with this story is the hero's sexual orientation. There were three sentences devoted to it. (I'm pretty sure I didn't miss any.)

He flirted with anyone and everyone who gave him the opportunity, men and women alike.

When the vicar announced at Sunday service that unnatural attractions to men were a sign of moral turpitude.

His prior liaisons with men and women?

If you're going to write a bisexual hero, then do it. Don't make three passing allusions to his sexual preferences when it impacts neither the plot or the romance. What's the point? Readers get no insight into Crash's sexual character, no delving into his thoughts, his feelings. Nothing in-depth at all. And Daisy's sober and dispassionate response was simply unbelievable.

His prior liaisons with men and women?

Well, so long as he was honest about what happened, and hadn't lied to anyone, who was hurt by it?

I didn't buy it. As I did with *Talk Sweetly to Me* I felt this deserved a full-length novel.

The dialogue between the two *working-class* characters comes across as far too educated. The misunderstanding with Crash's **OVER-REACTION** was just too much. And the cover. I usually don't comment on a cover (because I don't particularly care too much), but this one in no way, shape or form is indicative of the working-class heroine, or the story.

There's no doubt whatsoever that Ms Milan is intelligent. She has written some of the best historical romances around; complex, layered and clever. So, while the writing, the research and *story* are, as expected, good, the romance was lacklustre. Or just lacking, fullstop. Combined with the other issues I had, this was an average read, but better than the first book in this series.

Steam: 2

ARC courtesy of Victory Editing via NetGalley

Beanbag Love says

Nice story. I like that it's not about the aristocracy or anyone incredibly wealthy. I really hope we see these characters in the next book. I want to know how they're doing with their ventures.

More in depth review may come later.

WhiskeyintheJar/Kyraryker says

2.5 stars

sraxe says

“Come to my side,” he murmured. “We have baked goods and tea.”

“That’s a terrible argument. The side of proper English morality also has pastries and tea. They

practically invented it.”

“They stole the tea, and they certainly never baked the biscuits. In addition, I know fifteen ways to give a woman an orgasm.”

Daisy choked.

“Which is rather antithetical to their position. So which do you prefer, Daisy. Pastries and tea? Or pastries, tea, and, orgasms?”

I loved this book. (Which is suuuuuch a surprise given my five-star rating, huh?) I loved this book for so, so, sooo many reasons, and not just because of the plot and characters. The representation was one great point of interest, with one of the very minor characters, May, being a lesbian (or bi, it's not specified). And Crash. (I loved Crash, btw.) Crash is a POC (and bisexual, I believe, but it's not outright stated), who is part black, Indian (South Asian), and half Chinese, French or Portuguese (but he doesn't know for certain). But the thing I loved best about it was that it made me think and discuss. There was no easily discernible right or wrong in this situation, because both were equally wrong in their own ways, imo.

This is a second chance romance, so there was a separation between the two. (And for those who don't like long separations, worry not! It's a few months in this case, but I don't remember if it's said exactly how many.) Usually a separation in a second chance romances tends to be as a result of some big misunderstanding, which I can only assume is because the author doesn't want to make either character the "bad guy" or the cause of it. In this case, Milan doesn't use that cop-out. She makes them both culpable for the separation. They'd both made mistakes, said hurtful things, and separated as a result. What I absolutely loved was that they both took responsibility for these mistakes, apologized, and only *then* got back together. (No doormat heroines here, folks!)

Daisy was a really, really great character. She was strong in so many ways, and it was sad to see her so down on her luck and treated so awfully. Daisy didn't fall at Crash's feet once he apologized. She made him work for it. And she didn't settle or make exceptions or anything of the sort. (view spoiler)

Now, Crash. Crash, like I said, I absolutely loved. He was great in so many ways. After a lifetime of hurtful remarks and mistreatment, I love to see that he hasn't let it bring him down. Yes, his family helped him out in that sense, telling him to ignore the awful and racist things people have said to him. And because of that, he's able to laugh off racist and classist remarks, whether they're intentional or not. And when it comes to Daisy, he earns her forgiveness. Even when he thought that she had moved on and was with someone else, he says that he just wanted her happiness, nothing more.

This reminded me of Evan (Unlocked). Even though Crash didn't think he could have Daisy, just as Evan didn't think Elaine would ever accept him back, he decided her happiness was first. But the difference in Evan and Crash was that Crash wanted her happiness for her before he even understood her side of the conflict. (view spoiler) Evan was: *I was wrong and I'm going to make it up to you.* Crash was: *You hurt me, but I still want you to be happy.*

The conflict. I have a lot of things to say about it. (view spoiler)

And I know many may want to jump in and condemn one or the other, but I don't feel it's that simple because a case can be made for both equally. Courtney Milan lays out both sides of the argument for readers in the

book (Aunt Ree expressing Daisy's to Crash and Crash expressing his own to Daisy), but I still want to throw my feelings in here (particularly for Crash, because I had a strong reaction to his hurt).

Even though what he said to her was awful...I can't say I blame him. When you're a POC, you hear all kinds of tone-deaf and racist BS. Some people don't realize that what they're saying is racist or offensive ("You're pretty for a black girl," "I wish more of your people were like you. You're a good [enter ethnicity here]," etc.). And, you know...you get really fucking tired of that. Crash said he'd had to deal with twenty-six years of racist and classist bullshit. You get sick of that shit. Over the years, he's developed a coping mechanism to deal with it: he laughs it off. If you act like what someone is saying to you isn't hurtful, you can sometimes take away the other person's power in that situation.

And although you can laugh off or wave away hurtful insults like those from people you don't know or care for, it's a whole different (and scarring) monster to hear an echo of all of those things now being parroted back to you in the form of a person you love. For someone you love to say something like they "forgive you" for the colour of your skin...it's unreal. It doesn't matter if they misspoke because they still said it. They still hurt you. You can't unhear something like that, so you can't unhurt the person so easily. And then it brings other thoughts to mind. You wonder if the entire time you were with that person, did they ever see who you really were, beyond the colour of your skin? Or did they always look at "what" you were. (And that's something Crash deals with, too, with people asking him "what" he is because he's mixed.)

This was another misstep Daisy made in this situation. (view spoiler)

Just because the intention wasn't there, it doesn't mean she didn't hurt him. She did. And then she invalidated his hurt by saying that she didn't mean it, so maybe he should just get over it. However, what Daisy had said had been in ignorance, not bigotry. Because Daisy is white, she doesn't even realize that what she said was wrong because she's never had to experience it. She made the situation about herself and her hurt feelings.

He was hurt, so he was hurtful in return. He was wrong in that, but I don't think it's fair to ask him to stop, let go of his hurt, and then consider her feelings instead, which is what she does here. Trust me when I say, POC hear this all the time. The same thing can be said for her in this case. She's the one who'd initiated the forgiveness talk, so why couldn't she have stopped? He'd simply been jokingly relaying a story about his past, not asking for her forgiveness in any way. So who is she to say that she forgives him? Even if it's not meant to, that implies that she's above his status, which is why she's able to bestow forgiveness upon him, as if she's some authority.

When he asked for clarification on what "everything" was, she didn't stop and think it through. He was already angry and hurt enough by this point to understandably not be logical and clearheaded, but she was still fairly calm...so couldn't she have seen something was wrong? She does, actually. She notices the changes in the atmosphere, the way that his speech changed, his tone changed, his facial expression changed, the way he pulled away from her...so couldn't she have stopped? Instead, she compounded it, continuing to say yes. His bastard status. His un-English features. The colour of his skin. Yes, yes, yes, she said. It was only after the part about the colour of his skin did he go in on her, not before. And you may say *hey, she asked him afterwards when he was calm if he meant any of what he said, and he responded with yes*. Well, so did he, though. When he'd asked her for clarification, that was his *wait a minute* moment, and she piled on, adding to the hurt further.

They were also both equally vulnerable in this moment. She had given Crash her virginity, which can be argued as being the only thing of value a woman had in that time. Crash, on the other hand, spent years keeping people out of his "bubble" because he didn't want to be hurt by the racism he sees, hears, and feels every single day. But he finally let someone in, and that person was Daisy. (hide spoiler)]

There's intersectionality here as well because, as a woman, you want to sympathize with Daisy and what he said to her. But as a POC (particularly male), you want to sympathize with Crash and what she said to him (whether or not she meant it that way). But as a woman of colour, who do you side with? It's like...wait, who's wrong? The thing is...they both were. But they were both right in their hurt, as well. Yes, what Crash said was hurtful, but what she'd said had been on par, imo. What Courtney Milan wrote also speaks to the fact that they were both hurt in their own ways, but because they've never had to deal with either of what the other has had to, they didn't realize they were hurting one another. You've got Daisy looking at things as a white woman, and then you've got Crash looking at things as a man of colour. And then, finally, Crash is taken to task for his words by Aunt Ree, who steps in as a woman of colour, bringing both sides together. He realizes what he'd missed originally about his words and apologizes. (view spoiler)

Fuck...Courtney Milan is amazing, is all I've got to say. Usually we can see how one character is clearly in the wrong and being bullheaded about it, but in this situation, a case can be made for the both of them. Both of their anger was justified, and they were both allowed their hurt. And then to have them both realize they were at fault...and for them BOTH to apologize to one another? And to have a man truly apologize—more than once—rather than beat around the bush, and try and make it up to her? Fucking amazing.

Clearly, liked I said in my placeholder "review" earlier, I have a lot of feelings. And that's what an amazing author can do for a reader. They make them think and feel well after the pages on a good book have closed. (And I'm not talking ragey THAT WAS BULLSHIT feelings that come with awful books, btw.) It stays with you. And I loved this book and its nuances and its depth.

(This was a buddy read with my amazing buddy, Daniella! We had a good time sharing our Crash love/hate, haha!)

Caz says

I've given this an A for narration and a B for content at AudioGals.

As was the case with *Once Upon a Marquess*, the book in Courtney Milan's new *Worth Saga* that precedes this novella, reactions to **Her Every Wish** have been mixed. That said, I found it to be more cohesive in many ways than the novel. Because of the shorter format, the storyline is simpler and less complex – not that there aren't complexities, because there are – but with fewer characters and fewer obvious foibles, there is more room to concentrate on the relationship between the protagonists, something I felt lacking in the previous story.

Daisy Whitlaw appeared in **Marquess** as a friend of the heroine, Judith. Daisy's father was a successful tradesman, but after his death, Daisy and her invalid mother have found it increasingly difficult to make ends meet. In an attempt to better provide for them both, Daisy enters a competition offering a prize of fifty pounds to the person (not the man, as she points out more than once) with the best idea for setting up a new business. Daisy knows her proposal is sound, yet when the day comes to announce the shortlist of ten, she is nonetheless astonished to find herself one of the ten. On discovering that 'D. Whitlaw' is a woman, the other

entrants – all men – are disgusted. Daisy is insulted and ridiculed, her confidence deserts her and she starts to question her wisdom in having entered the competition in the first place.

You can read the rest of this review at [AudioGals](#)

Anya says

“There’s something I’ve learned in the last few weeks. When you feel yourself on the verge of falling, you need to go faster. To not apologize for who you are, what you have come from. Apologies sound like excuses. You’re brilliant, Judith, and kind, and funny, and anyone who does not like you is unworthy of you.”

“Easy to say.”

“I know.” Daisy looked at her friend. “But has giving a damn about them changed how they react to you?”

“No.”

“Then why bother giving one?”

Consider this read a prelude to Lisa Kleypas' new book releasing tomorrow. Consider this read a desperate SOS from the terrible monstrosities that are examinations.

Here's the thing, I've stopped feeling ashamed for liking historical romances. I love reading them and I refuse to apologise because of it. And the fact that I read fluff doesn't make me a ditzy reader.

This book is the exact thing I needed to read right now and I know my tongue would rot and fall off before I said that Courtney Milan doesn't know her game. Because oh, she does and she's brilliant at it. Her characters (both main and side) have more facets than a clearly cut diamond. There's no one twu wuv and some magical dick that solves all the problems of the heroine. Because life is so much more than that.

And the diversity, oh. We have a feminist heroine (unsurprisingly) and a PoC hero here who is also bisexual (in your face bierasure!).

So yeah, tl;dr- This book is all kinds of awesome. Go read it!
