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Neena Allen's life didn't exactly follow the path she'd anticipated. She couldn't have seen the twists and turns that would lead her to wander the woods, presumed dead by the prison guards. When Neena starts a new life in a little Arkansas town, she finds a contentment she never dreamed possible. The thing about skeletons in your closet is they always come back to haunt you.

Jailbird Details

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Author : Heather Huffman

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From Reader Review Jailbird for online ebook

Lisa says

I enjoyed this tale of injustice versus goodness and the will to survive. It wasn't of great depth and it wrapped up quite quickly, and a little too neatly to be entirely believable, but I enjoyed the characters and story.

M says

I wish I could say I found something good in this book but definitely not for me. Totally unrealistic storyline, bad dialogue, and THE absolute worst girl prison gang name. It's Las Chicas, seriously, the girls in Spanish. How was that a good idea? That is just one little tiny bit of silliness among many in this book.

Kendra says

Oh man...this is going to be a difficult review to write. Overall, I didn't like this book. BUT, I know that a lot of people will like it and my reasons are more personal than the fault of the author. The only reason I don't rate this book at 1 star is because I liked it (just) enough to finish it.

I think this book should be rated as Christian Fiction...it is WAY too clean; I actually felt as if it were an after school special or network TV movie of the week. Ridiculously clean... I have many peeves but the biggest one was how often the main character was chastised for cursing when in reality all she said was damn. Seriously?!!

Example...the main character says, *"I didn't know what to tell her about this whole damn mess."* and the response is...*"Would you watch your mouth? What is it with you two? Charlie threw his hands up in disgust."* That sort of censure happens throughout the book and its distracting.

The characters in this book are either WAY too perfect or WAY too evil. I was literally rolling my eyes and scoffing at how every "good" character in this book was beyond unselfish. Even their flaws were perfect...it drove me crazy. This book is anything but realistic. The story and main character are supposed to be gritty but instead its all like a fairy tale...the pieces fall together WAY too conveniently. The good guy trumps evil in EVERY case. The trust and love between all of the characters is way too unconditional and happens way too quickly.

Another peeve that was very frustrating for me is the voice of a 10 year old main character in the book...She is 10 and although the story makes sure to mention that she is smart and mature for her age...her voice is way too mature. She continually makes comments that fit a teenage girl and it is over the top distracting.

I could go on and on...ripping apart every single character and their stories...but there's no point. If you're the type to enjoy clean, feel good, unrealistic stories that help you see the world in a better light then this book is for you...enjoy.

Maggie says

Boring, ridiculous - skip this one.

J.C. Wing says

The first line of this novel made it a hard one to resist. “Of all the things I dreamed of being when I grew up, a convicted felon certainly wasn’t one of them.” This began a chapter that is scattered with so many bits of foreshadowing, I found that I couldn’t help but pick up each shiny piece with an increasing anticipation for the next.

One of the things I enjoyed most about Heather Huffman’s writing style was that she didn’t explain everything in minute detail. This was a surprise for me. At first I wanted a more thorough description of the storyline, but as I read, I realized that the author was creating a visual picture of her tale for me in a way I never expected. I was shown the events that made up Neena’s life. I understood how her past affected her, and there was no doubt just how much trepidation she felt about her future. What I found so interesting was what wasn’t written into the story—those intimate details Neena didn’t express about the things that had happened to her— spoke just as loudly as the words that were spelled out on the page. The more I read, the more I felt like the style in which the story was being told was much like Neena herself; open but guarded, emotional but hesitant.

Jailbird is at times light-hearted and sweet, but it’s dark and sad as well. While Neena’s story is a difficult one, it is impossible not to become attached to this brave and resourceful heroine. Huffman has created very genuine characters in this novel. She reminds readers with this story that bad things sometimes happen to good people, but that we all have the ability and the strength to rise above them, and that we can live the kinds of lives we all want most.

Marina says

Neena escaped from prison where she spent almost ten years. Officially, she was dead, eaten by the gators. Unofficially, she ran into a family of “angels”. The Torres family accepted her as a part of their own without asking any questions. In the small town, she meets Charlie and his daughter Cara, and soon they become a family. Life couldn’t be more happier for Neena.

But her happiness couldn’t last forever. She has skeletons in the closet. Ten years ago, she was ordinary girl in a reservation. Until one day she was raped by someone who was member of a wealthy and influential family. She murdered her rapist, and sent to prison. There, she found out that she was pregnant. She couldn’t raise her daughter in prison, so she gave her to her brother to raise her as his own.

Now, her past is after her. Police is after her, reporters are after her, her nine years old daughter wants to meet her, the baby is on the way. She has to survive and fight for her life and happiness.

Jailbird is a warm story for survival. A story for hope, for family and friends. For people who stand by your side no matter what. Remember that saying: “When the student is ready, the teacher will appear”? Your

friends and family are always there for you when you need them most. Neena was all alone in that wood. She found friends and a family when she needed them most. She fought her past, for her children, all three of them, for her family, for her right for happiness.

There were also some humorous moments. Neena's daughter had to teach her how to silent the cell phone. Nine-year-olds are really smart. There were moments of laugh and joy, but also moment of fear, fear for the future, fear from the past.

I loved the narration of the story. Easy to read, floating. Characters were very well described. You can connect with everyone of them. I loved Charlie, and Conrad, and Cara and Gabrielle. It was so easy to love them all.

I've found Neena's story very touching and inspirational. I will recommend this story for everyone. It's a heart-warming story for all ages.

Haley Rogers says

Kept me interested enough, but not really a stellar book. I enjoyed it, but it seemed uneven. Parts were over-detailed while others seemed like it was just thrown in.

Kathy Cade says

Another excellent by Heather Huffman.

ILoveBooks says

The reader will find him/herself right in the gritty portion of the novel from the start. Neena is in jail and breaking out. Her story will have a myriad of reactions from the reader. Neena has a very good reason for being in jail-she killed a man, not just any man either, but a prominent, wealthy one. However, before she committed the act of murder, he raped and tried to kill her. When she escapes she runs to a small town where she has a chance at starting over. She does not expect to find love and a potentially ready-made family.

Neena's character is very likable. She is brave, resourceful, and overall just happy to be alive. The reader will love the love interest who eventually becomes her husband. He is understanding, successful, and her ready-made hero. Can Neena accept her current luck and happiness and leave her past behind her?

The events in this book begin with a bang and continue with a dark undertone as Neena worries about being caught and placed back in prison. The climax is towards the end of the book, leaving the reader with about 3/4 of the book to anticipate the ending! The author writes fluidly and emotionally, the reader will form an

emotional attachment to Neena early on in the story. This book would be great for adult readers.

Tisho Jessop says

It was enjoyable but completely implausible. I just kept thinking “this would never work out this way”.

Erin says

Another great book by Heather Huffman. Great and smooth-flowing storyline with realistic characters you can't help but want to get to know more. Great suspense with the right amount of romance (since I am NOT a romance reader, I like that she keeps it light in that category). I love page-turners and she is notorious for writing them. I am looking forward to starting the next book, Devil In Disguise, today!

Carol Kidd says

Love it

This book was awesome. When I started reading this book I couldn't put it down. You will fall in love with all the characters.

Mochaspresso says

This review does contain some spoilers.....

This book has the foundation for a good story but it missed several opportunities to pull me in emotionally. Neena has a very powerful story to tell. She's an escaped convict who was wrongfully jailed for murdering her rapist. The problem is that she never really tells it. The reader gets the gist of it through bits and pieces of conversations that she has with other characters but we never hear her full story from her.

This is also one of those books where unrealistic things magically happen that conveniently wrap up the story in a neat little package. For example, she's an escaped convict and while on the run she meets a family that take her in with absolutely no questions asked. She also meets a lawyer in town, a single father raising a young daughter, who also accepts her with no questions asked. Not only that, he marries her after a whirlwind romance. When she tells them the truth, it doesn't matter to any of them. Her 10 yr old daughter, who was born in prison and then raised by her uncle, has never seen or known her real mother. When she is reunited with her, the girl accepts her and even runs off with her to hide from the authorities. These people are a little too good to be true, in my opinion.

Then there is also the notion of how a person who is wanted is able to live such a public life for so long without being caught. I can understand being able to hide out in a small town, but she is also in constant contact with her loved ones (by cell phone and in person) and she even goes out in public to dine. I found it

hard to believe that the authorities were not watching her brother and therefore would not have been led straight to her very quickly. I like the idea of redemption and love with no strings attached...but it has to be within a believable context. This was more like a fantasy. Having said all of that, one thing that I think that the book does do well is suspense. The parts where she was on the run were suspenseful and very well written. I just couldn't get past the unbelievability of the rest of the story.

Kathy says

Jailbird

Loved this book from the very first chapter! Wished there was a sequel to it! I plan on reading many more of Heather's books!

Renee says

First I will say I have sort of an author crush on Heather. I bought all of her other books because when I read two of her books I new I had to read the rest.

This story was a thriller! It opens with Neena escaping from jail. She is on the run, climbing through the forest, swimming the swamps in the bayou and scaring the crap out of me. It takes a while to find out why she was in prison. That is a BIG part of the mystery, it makes you turn the pages faster. At the end of her journey you will live through her heartache and fear again. It is very emotional. As far as the cops and jail is concerned she was dead, eaten by the gators. Unofficially, she ran into a wonderful family the Torres family took her in after she worked picking vegetable beside them. They all accepted her as a part of their own without asking any questions. It turns out everyone has a past that is just that past. In the small town, she meets Charlie the hot lawyer in the small town. Immediately he is taken by her. He is surprised too because his wife left him and his daughter Cara so he didn't think romance for a long time. Right away Cara and Neena become a family.

Life couldn't be more happier for Neena. Of course she is always haunted and her past catches up to her. The thriller starts again. The truth about Neena and her past come to surface. It was a great book. It showed a lot of history between the reservation, American Indians and how they live separated from a lot of American life.

Jailbird is thriller, suspense, and a great romance all wrapped up. I was drawn by Neena and her survival instincts. The best part was the strong families she encountered on the way through her journey.

Please read it!! Get Heather and stalk her, let her know she is great!!

Twitter:

@Heathers_Mark

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