



# Delivery

*Diana Prusik*

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## **Delivery** Diana Prusik

Livi finds new purpose in her troubled life when she joins her family's small-town florist shop. There, the strong and wacky Wilson's Florist gang monitors the pulse of Mount Helicon, where customers carry stories even the local newspaper does not contain. Tales of birth and death, sickness and sorrow, love and betrayal, and even forgiveness—Livi hears them all. Privy to some of the community's deepest secrets, she sometimes wishes she didn't know so much, especially when news arrives that a dear family friend is dead. Faced with servicing his funeral, she is blasted with painful memories she's struggled for decades to ignore. Soon, guilt and grief over childhood and adult tragedies close in. Instead of turning to loved ones or God for comfort, she leans on alcohol, her long-time clandestine companion—but secrets rarely escape the close-knit flower shop crew, who makes Livi's business its own. Fumbling through life's challenges together, the Wilson gang often delivers more than flowers, yet when Livi needs delivery, can the bonds of faith and friendship dissolve her defenses?

## **Delivery Details**

Date : Published June 24th 2011 by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

ISBN :

Author : Diana Prusik

Format : Kindle Edition 236 pages

Genre : Christian Fiction, Christian, Romance, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Delivery for online ebook

### **B.J. Robinson says**

Delivery by Diana Prusik published June 2011 by Tyndale House Publishers is thirty-five chapters of inspiration that tug your heartstrings. At times, you'll hold your breath, laugh, or cry. It'll evoke emotions with character depth and vivid description, I can just picture the heart-warming characters who come to life on the page right down from one woman's Dr. Scholl's shoes to the beautiful ending and special meaning of red carnations.

From the hub of a small-town flower shop, Livi watches the world go by as she attempts to drown life's problems with alcohol. She's lost too many loved ones too young in life to death, but even the alcohol can't offer enough comfort. It only numbs for a short time. Faith and friends prove to deliver more than the bottle, as she learns to cope and appreciate the time she has left with her mother.

I loved this novel and found the author quite adept at rounding out her characters and providing her readers with a few laughs along with the heartache and pain. It's a novel worth reading, and you don't want to miss it. I didn't want to put it down until I finished, yet I wanted to savor it. Though I read most of it quickly, I slowed down to savor those last chapters because I hated to see it come to an end. Grab a copy from those virtual bookshelves and start your reading adventure.

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### **Pam Hillman says**

I'm not much of a reviewer. You can probably tell that by the number of reviews I've posted, but when a book touches me, I have no problem letting people know it.

Delivery by Diana Prusik is one of those books.

You will cry unless you have a heart of stone.

You will hurt if you've ever loved and lost.

You will laugh over passages that evoke memories.

And you will feel hope when you close this book.

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### **Karol says**

Not my cup of tea - it jumped around a lot and the main character was so whiny I just wanted to shake her. All the tragedies in her life were terrible . . . but she made them all about HER. This went on and on and on, and then the ending was sudden and a bit too tidy for my taste.

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### **Mary Hanks says**

Delivery is a very engaging book. I loved all the flower details having to do with the shop and the wonderful characters in the town. It makes you feel like you could step right in and smell the roses. The story deals with deep topics. Kind of heavy, almost like a biography. I could relate to a lot of the issues from the Vietnam War. The pain of loss and grief can certainly last a long time. But I'm so happy to know Jesus can bring joy to our hearts even in the midst of suffering; I'm thankful the author touched on that in the end.

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### **Jessica Patch says**

Debut novel, Delivery is a story about a family that owns a florist shop in a small Missouri town and their friends. When one of those friends dies unexpectedly, it rips the scab off an old wound that has festered with guilt and resentment, for oldest daughter Livi and she finds comfort (and has for years) in the bottle.

The sibling rivalry between Livi and her sister Greta is amusing, fun, and downright hilarious at times. Each unique character weaved their way into my heart with every page.

While some of the scenes and antics were humorous, the subject of the book was deep. Delivery covered a wide array of sorrowful topics, showing God's grace in the worst of circumstances and why we should trust Him when everything falls apart.

The blend of smiles and tears made Delivery a wonderful and satisfying read. This book was compliments of Tyndale Publishers through Netgalley, for review. All opinions are mine alone!

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### **Jennifer Slattery says**

Delivery was one of the better books I've read this year, presenting the perfect balance of light-hearted humor and intensity. The characters were unique enough to prevent predictability, without hindering my attachment to them or ability to empathize with them. Initially, I was drawn to Livi, a confused and hurting young woman struggling to make sense of her world and the loss of her brother. However, by the end of the novel, I'd fallen in love with Jake, a man who embodied true, forever-love.

After the loss of her brother, Livi slips into a world of alcoholism, distrust, and bitterness. For much of the novel, she runs from God and withdraws from the love of her co-workers. Yet, no matter how hard Livi tries to free herself from their love, they remain constant and by her side. The close-knit atmosphere Diana created in the flower shop most of the story is centered in evoked a warm feeling of nostalgia within me and reminded me of the effectiveness of committed friendship.

I also enjoyed the frequent change of tones throughout the novel. Just when I thought my heart would break, Diana Prusik plunged me into a lighter scene that managed to produce a few authentic laugh-out-loud moments. Then, when I least expected it—Bam!—the intensity changed, and I found myself fighting tears once again.

This novel was one that will stay with me on many levels, reminding me to cherish the relationships I have, refusing to let them go without a fight.

## **Suzanne Parrott says**

I loved this book. Diana Prusik's debut novel *Delivery* touched on tough subjects many people hide under the carpet, yet she doesn't let it overpower the storyline. Humor and love are intertwined keeping a realistic tone.

It begins in a local, small town flowers shop. A dear friend of the family has passed and Livi Wilson's past demons start to rear their head; Instead of reaching out to God or loved ones for help, she retreats into a bottle suppressing her anger, hurt and denial.

Working in her family's small floral shop, Livi and her tight-knit group of co-workers (dubbed the "Wilson Gang") are privy to the goings-on in the small town - whether they want to be or not. As trials start to mount, Livi reinforces her protective wall yet numbs the pain and guilt she feels with alcohol.

Prusik does a wonderful job of portraying the progression of time without the need to divulge every minute detail along the way. She also does a wonderful job of endearing the characters to your heart. When Ida is diagnosed with an illness, it hit home on a scale I didn't even imagine and I cried. I knew what Livi and her family were about to face, and I wanted to protect them from it.

My favorite character, hands down, is Mom Robinson. Based on a real person\*, Prusik is able to lovingly portray Mom's unconditional love to her town and her willingness to be a vessel for God. [\*listen to my interview with Diana on [...]]

Prusik does an excellent job pulling you into the lives of this small town and reminding us it is God who sustains us, through the peaks and valleys of our lives.

I highly recommend this book with one caution: you will need a box of Kleenex.

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## **Terry Coffman says**

I am reading this book by a friend. It's her first published book and I am so excited for her. She lives in the same town I live in, and although I haven't finished the book, I can see that Mount Helicon where the story is set, is modeled after our town. It's about a small town florist shop and the women who work there and their familial ties and friendship with each other.

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## **Mary says**

Hard to believe this was a debut novel by Diana Prusik. It was very well written and held my interest to the end. The only problem I had with the story was that Ms Prusik used what I call flashbacks, separated by chapters. So one chapter would be present time and the next chapter would be a previous time in Livi's memory. All in all, the story itself was very good for those who enjoy reading Christian fiction.

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## Sue says

What an enjoyable book! It realistically deals with a woman questioning God and her faith. She lived her life on a journey that all Christians take. While each individual journey is different, it's one we all understand. Livi is challenged at a young age by events that make it hard for her to believe that a loving, ever forgiving God exists. It takes decades for her to finally come to realize what she believes and how she wants to live out her life.

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## Carlee says

This book was a good read - I liked the small town scenery and the characters were well developed. Something feels a bit off, though, and I can't quite figure out what it is. Maybe it's that the narrator switches from various characters, or that the story flashes back and forth between present-day (well, 1988-ish) and the 60s/70s.

Or maybe it's the religious themes toward the end of the book. The other mentions of religion (and Livi's skepticism towards it) didn't bother me at all, but something about the last few chapters seemed off - that's when I realized "oh, this is Christian fiction!"

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## Julie says

I thought this book was a little stupid at first. Some chick who can't face her past and is an alcoholic and the people she works with don't see it. Also, her family is either in denial or can't face the death of their son, the main character's brother. Then, I kept reading it. Her co-workers (and some friends) call her out on her behavior. I actually really enjoyed the book and how it turns out in the epilogue. I will not ruin it, for those of you who have not yet read it.

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## Kathleen (Kat) Smith says

When Olivia Wilson Jarvis agreed to help her daddy start Wilson's Florist, she knew she'd sometimes face servicing the funerals of loved ones. But why now?

Miss Ellie nodded. "After forty years, I've learned a few things about this job. Flower shop folks know what a dead man wears on his feet beneath the coffin lid, but we rarely get to file past the casket to say our final good-byes. We watch life pass through this town from the inside and outside all at once, closer than anyone and not as close as others at all." Her gaze meet Livi's. "It isn't always easy." She should know.

Delivery by Diana Prusik, is a delightful and at times serious novel about the staff that work and interact with those at Wilson's Florist in Mount Helicon. The book opens with the death of a beloved resident of the town, Robert "Bink" Carter as the florists are busy with all the floral arrangements that almost every single resident in town has ordered. While they are working and having conversations, the story flashes back to their individual pasts so the reader gets an inside look at why they are the people they are today. Why Livi pauses during hectic times to have a bottle of beer or two, why Miss Ellie is busy searching for husband number five and even why Livi and her sister Gretta remains at odds with one another.

Tales of birth and death, sickness and sorrow, love and betrayal, and even forgiveness. And yet, privy to some of the community's deepest secrets, Livi sometimes wishes she didn't know so much--and that is just what the reader will discover through the pages of this delightful story.

I received this eBook compliments of Tyndale House Publishers and Net Galley for my honest review. If you look for books with very different characters who's lives overlap one another, then this is the book for you! I would rate this one a 4 out of 5 stars simply due to the fact that all the stories can get a bit confusing. At one point, I had to grab a notebook to jot down how they were all related and that was during 1/3 of the way into the book for me.

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### **Grace says**

A great book it was slow at first but still interesting and then about half way through and it was really good. A book I'm glad I read.

Working in a family owned florist Livi experiences the pain of deal of friends and loved ones. Her biggest loss is watching her mother's mind deteriorate from Alzheimer. Instead of turning to others or God Livi gives up hope and turns to alcohol to numb the pain. After escaping an accident that could have killed innocent children Livi breaks down and some of her co-workers confront her about her drinking. Livi doesn't feel that she can be forgiven. God uses the letters of her deceased brother and the wisdom of a family friend to bring Livi around.

Read this great story of love, faith and forgiveness.

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### **DK says**

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<http://search.barnesandnoble.com/Deli...>

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