



What You Wish For

Kerry Reichs

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If what you wish for is a delightfully bittersweet novel filled with endearing, eccentric characters and situations in the vein of Jennifer Weiner, Jane Green, Marian Keyes, and Meg Cabot, then Kerry Reichs's *What You Wish For* is the answer to your prayers. The daughter of forensic crime fiction superstar Kathy Reichs (bestselling creator of the Temperance Brennan mystery series, the basis for TV's *Bones*), Kerry Reichs's writing talent is ingrained in her DNA, as she's already demonstrated with her previous books, *Leaving Unknown* and *The Best Day of Someone Else's Life*. Her third novel, *What You Wish For*, is a tender, loving, funny, and unforgettable tale of five "modern" families, each one following a very different road to happiness, and yet another bravura example of Kerry Reichs's phenomenal storytelling abilities.

What You Wish For Details

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Author : Kerry Reichs

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From Reader Review What You Wish For for online ebook

Williesun says

After Christmas I went on a shopping spree on Amazon because I got a gift certificate and was more than ready to use it. Hell, I've been born ready to spent money on Amazon. One of the items in my shopping cart was she newest novel by Kerry Reichs.

You've read my gushing on and on about her previous book and if you haven't, well, you must be new around here. I was excited to finally read this and also a little bit worried if it could live up to my expectations.

The style of the book is different from her previous ones. It's a multi-character story, so every chapter focusses on a different character. What unites them is their wish to become parents only they are not what anyone would call a traditional family. Far from it. There is the 40-year old actress named Dimple, 50-year old Wyatt who is a high school principle and Maryn the breast cancer survivor who is now sterile. All of them are single and struggle with the prospects of a society that sees family as a mom and dad and kids. Not a single mother. Especially not a single heterosexual man trying to adopt a baby. He surely must be a pedophile, why would he want to have kids?

Throw a couple of other characters into the mix, like Wyatt's cousin who is healthy and fertile as you can be but never wanted kids and doesn't change her mind and you've got yourself a story. Just imagine, there are women out there who don't want children, it is possible. Then there is Maryn's ex-husband whom she is suing for the right to use the eggs they harvested, fertilised and stored in a cryobank before beginning chemotherapy. Andy is against it for reasons I don't quite understand. He also starts to run for city council and that turns into an ugly mess soon. Last but not least we have director Julian who challenges Dimple to go out of her comfort zone in order to get a role.

In the beginning I struggled a little bit with the jump from one character to the other. I'm not used to so many players in the mix but once I settled into the story I was fine. I really liked the story, the characters and the message it sent. There is more to a family than a mom and a dad. Also, I just love Kerry's writing style.

There were just some minor things that irritated me, mostly for personal reasons. First of all, when Dimple refers to her libido or inner whatever as LaMimi I'm instantly reminded of 50 Shades of Grey and Ana's inner goddess. So that's a dealbreaker. Then there is the legal aspect of Maryn suing Andy over the use of their embryos. Eh, I read about that at length in 'Sing You Home' by Jodi Picoult even if it had different circumstances. Also, I'm not that into legal matters. As I said, minor hiccups.

What I liked though was the mention of one character from Leaving Unknown, Laura/Lola, the girl that works at the studios in LA. She is mentioned once but I saw it as a treat and was happy that I recognised her. It's just a funny occurrence. Then there is the matter that the Reichs women must think Summer is THE name of the rebound wife. Andy's second wife is named Summer and if I remember correctly, so is the fiancé of Pete who is Tempe Brennan's ex-husband in the novels by Kerry's mother, Kathy Reichs.

In the end, all characters come together through different circumstances. It's heartbreaking and bittersweet but also a good ending. I liked where the book went and not everything turned out exactly as I expected which is always a plus.

There is a Q&A at the end of the book and there is one excerpt I want to share with you because it's so nice and sad and great and... It's a letter from one of the characters. It's not a part of the book but something

Kerry envisioned for the character.

I had a second chance to do everything I wanted, but that is rare. Never wait to be asked twice to dance. Dance. Laugh often. Be noisy. Hug your father. Do something every day that doesn't make rational sense. Be joyful, though you considered all the facts. Love freely, and love those who don't deserve it. Do a selfless thing each day. Every day won't be the best day in your life, but that's okay. If someone were to tell you the world would end tomorrow, plant a tree. Most of all, don't be afraid of risk. If you open yourself to opportunities, fortuities will land on your shoulder like birds. The only thing that holds you back in life is yourself. I give you permission. Go for it.

Reading this made me cry all over again after I was done crying about the actual book. Maybe it's wrong to measure the quality of a book by the fact if it made me cry or not but that's juts how I roll. If I cried, it means the story touched me enough to make me care – to be a catalyst for the feelings I cannot let free on my own.

This is a story about wanting to have kids without having the opportunity to do so on your own. It's about health that is not distributed fairly and most importantly, it's a story about family values. A kid can grow up happy having just a single parent, or two mommies or two daddies as long as it's cared and loved for. There's nothing more that matters.

boogenhagen says

Finally! A storyline where a woman doesn't want to have kids and she isn't made to feel guilty about it or give in to a partner's demand for kids. I have waited a long, long time for that.

Not that there is anything wrong with kids, but if you don't have them and you choose not to have them, then people think there is something wrong with you. KR did a brilliant job on this and I loved this book.

Kathleen (Kat) Smith says

Take the lives of four unique individuals at different stages in their lives and see where life takes them is what you will find in the latest novel from Kerry Reichs. The common thread running through them is often times family, marriage and wanting a child.

Agnis Dyemma Bauskenieks will never be known by that name expect by the parents who decided it would be fun to name her after her grandmother while trying to repair their own fractured relationship with her mom. She instead goes by the name Dimple Bledsoe, who vows never to become fifty years old. One can not be fifty as an actress in Hollywood if she wants to continue to work. So her only other outlet is her agent, Freya Fosse, who she confides in about all her latest break ups while searching for her next job.

Wyatt is forty-eight, a busy teacher who insists on making sure that he will leave this planet a much greener one, taking his bike to work while sorting through his own issues. Losing both of his parents within six months of each other, and is now working through starting his own family with Ilana. He is loving living in Los Angeles where the average temperature never wavers much from 70 and never has a fall.

Maryn finds herself alone during this stage in her life, and gets upset when people take their own lives too casually. Dealing with the aftermath of a divorce to her ex husband Andy, and his current wife Summer who insists on trying to get him to go by Andrew because it's less childish. Maryn is dealing with age and not

being young anymore, dealing with wrinkles, a belly and the transformation of her hands into her mothers hands. She knows she can't compete with the younger women and tries to age gracefully, even purchasing a wafer thin bottle of face lotion for \$98 and has successfully waged a war against breast cancer. It's dealing with happiness that makes her rage bubble over now and now dealing with infertility that cancer had robbed her of. She and Andy had undergone the procedure prior to her cancer treatment to freeze fertilized eggs, and the only thing holding her up is Andy's consent.

Andy Knox is not sure he wants to sign the consent forms for Maryn to use the fertilized eggs for her to have a baby. Now that he is working on a new marriage with Summer, this kinda complicates things. He can't exactly allow Maryn to have his child now that they are no longer married. They only have seven eggs to use to help Maryn have a child of her own, she has no other choice to become a mom. But with it comes a responsibility that Andy would have a child out there, he'd become a father and he wasn't sure he could do this.

These are the characters the reader will encounter in the novel, What You Wish For by Kerry Reichs, as the chapters alternate with what is happening in the lives of each of them as they move forward. I think this makes for an interesting read but it can be confusing keeping track of who goes with whom and how their own personal stories are being told. In fact, this is almost like getting four books in one! I love how Kerry spent the time crafting each one and where their stories go, you'll have to check this one out for yourself.

I received What You Wish For compliments of William Morrow, a division of Harper Collins Publisher for my honest review. Keeping a note card inside this book enabled me to remember what characters were dealing with what issues until I felt comfortable I no longer needed it to move forward through the book. I would rate this one a 4 out of 5 stars due to some language and subject matter that might bother some readers. Overall I think the novel was well thought out and the author really spent time creating believable characters we can all relate to.

Sara Strand says

Even though I was incredibly stabby and frustrated that yet again I somehow pick a book in this type of format and it's hands down the most annoying format for a book because it's so hard to end it. Really. It's very difficult to round up every character's story well enough to feel like it's finished. And this book didn't end every story line the way it really should, but I was able to get through it. The book started perking up half way through (I know.. it takes awhile) and by that point I had already invested this much time.. I may as well keep going. So I did and it was OK. I think if you are someone who wants a baby, this is probably a good read for you because it basically covers all kinds of ways you can end up with a baby.

But here's my gripe. And I'm a woman so I can say it: I really hate it when women put off having babies because of their career. There, I said it. I'm not anti-woman, I'm not anti-having-a-good-career either. I'm a common sense, use your brain and don't be stupid. Quite frankly, it's reckless to wait until you are in your forties because think of the unnecessary risks you have now just put on your child. Is it fair to put them at risk because you want a career? I mean really.. that's kind of selfish. On the flip side, I think you should at least wait and not pop out children as tax breaks when you're 19 or 20 either. Granted, I did that... and I regret it. In no way shape or form was I ready for what was coming. But nonetheless, there was one character (Dimple) that I just couldn't stand for this reason. I cried HARD with Maryn's story line because you knew that wouldn't end well.

In the end, it's a really good take on different introductions to parenthood and Wyatt's story line especially will have you asking yourself what your take on it is.

Christine says

Disappointed. Big time. I was looking forward to reading this because I felt like I was "the" target audience: 37, single, no children...and I hate that I'm 37, single, with no children. I thought this book would be one I could relate to personally, and maybe it'd even make me think differently about my current situation. Perhaps it would give me hope, a different perspective, or just the feeling that someone else (even a character in a book) felt like I do.

What You Wish For didn't give me any of those things...certainly not hope or a different (realistic) perspective. There WERE characters who were single, "older," and who very much wanted a child, but I could relate to neither of them. I thought the characters were very unrelatable...not even as men and women who did or didn't want children, but as just regular human beings. They, the dialogue, the plot for each character, etc. were...odd. Stories were mish-mashed together and most happenings weren't true-to-life in the least.

I only began to care about some of the characters with about 1/4 of the book left...not a good sign. Unfortunately, this one did not meet my expectations...not even close.

H says

Set in LA, this book tells the stories of Wyatt, a single school principal who wants to adopt; Maryn, a breast cancer survivor who is in a custody battle with her ex over frozen embryos; Dimple, a 40 year old actress trying to decide if her career or her desire to have a child is more important; and Eva - Wyatt's cousin who keeps losing men when she tells them she doesn't want children. Moving back and forth between the characters, the story basically looks at the struggle to have, and not have, a child. Good summer read, and just enough sad to shed a few tears.

Luanne Ollivier says

I adored Kerry Reichs' previous book - Leaving Unknown. (review here) So, I was eager to dive into her latest release - What You Wish For.

We are rapidly introduced to the characters who populate Reichs' tale - and they all have one thing in common. Children. The desire to have them or in some cases - to not have them.

Dimple was first up. She's a moderately successful actress, closing in on the the end of her ticking biological clock. Can the role of a lifetime beat out her desire to have a child? I did find her opening chapter a bit frenetic and didn't really warm up to this character until midway through the book.

Eva has no desire to have children. Will this end her relationship with the man she loves? Or will she change her mind?

Maryn has battled breast cancer and won. Before her treatment, she froze eggs with her then husband. They've since divorced and she needs his approval to use the eggs. But his new wife says no. Will he change his mind?

And my favourite character - Wyatt. He's the principal of a high school, single and straight and he wants to have a child of his own. He's headed down the surrogacy route. Wyatt was just so warm, caring and innocent. But at the same time he's wise to the ways of his high schoolers. These were some of my favourite chapters.

And these four main characters' lives all intersect in the most interesting fashion....

Loved it! Once I had the characters and their lives straight in my head, What You Wish For was an easy, breezy read. Reichs is a clever writer. The amount of puns she worked in between two characters was truly funny. (and some of them were eminently groan worthy!) The banter is light, some situations are quite comical, but there is a depth to What You Wish For that transcends everyday chick lit. Reichs explores the desire to have children from four very different viewpoints with candor and thoughtfulness, allowing the reader to share in each character's decision making - and think about what really constitutes a family.

Reichs utilizes Hollywood as a backdrop for her novel. Her sly skewering of television dramas and starlets made me laugh out loud.

Fair warning - have the tissue box close by for the ending. My husband looked at me and asked - are you really crying over a book? Umm - yeah, I got that caught up in the story. Thanks Kerry for yet another great read. Pop this one in the beach bag this summer - you won't regret it.

Becky says

Dimple Bledsoe is a well-known television actress facing a dilemma: although her resume says she's 36, Dimple is closer to 40 and fears that if she waits much longer she'll miss out on motherhood. She'd hoped to meet Mr. Right and start a family the traditional way, but it looks as though that may not happen. Meanwhile, Wyatt Ozols had also hoped to settle down and have a family and, like Dimple, it just hasn't worked out. Wyatt's not one to let that get him down, he's ready for kids and has decided to go the adoption route. Unfortunately, the atypical situation of a single man looking to adopt may not work out in his favor.

Maryn Windsor is a survivor. She beat breast cancer all on her own -- her husband left in the middle of treatment -- and now she wants to be a mom. Maryn and her ex proactively froze embryos in the event that the cancer treatment left her unable to conceive, but now Maryn needs her ex's permission to use them and the situation soon becomes the focus of a heated political debate.

Eva Lytton is a highly successful agent facing a much different situation: she doesn't want kids. The problem is that every man Eva meets does.

Each of them is facing tough decisions and odds that seem to be against them, but each of them is determined to win out in the end. And some of them will find connections with each other that may prove to be additional challenges or provide them with much needed support.

WHAT YOU WISH FOR features an ensemble cast of characters each facing the issue of children. They each have their own problems, their own unique needs, and their own coping mechanisms. At various points in the book, I found myself siding with and rooting for each one. I really don't want to give away too much though since getting to know each of them yourself is the best part.

Reichs also cleverly links the characters in some unexpected ways. Yes, Wyatt and Eva are cousins. Yes, Eva works in the same industry as Dimple. But the unexpected ways they each come together are part of the

fun of the story.

WHAT YOU WISH FOR is an emotional read filled with lovely and loving characters. Definitely a heart-wrenching read given the subject, but also a fun one that remains mostly upbeat throughout.

Donna says

Three women and one single man go down different roads in their quest to have a child in their lives.

I read this for two reasons: there was a woman who didn't want to have kids, and there was a woman who was in a custody battle for fertilized eggs she and her now ex-husband had frozen before she had chemotherapy that rendered her sterile. I liked all four of the characters. And even though I didn't agree with all the decisions they made, I don't have to - that's partially why I read, to be put in other people's heads and to be exposed to different lives. This would have been a four except for some eye-roll-worthy dialoguge - the characters didn't talk, or converse, they had debates with point and counterpoint all delivered in perfect flowy prose. Still, a good read.

Joy Edge says

So!!good.the characters are so well developed,the topic is both heart warming and heartbreaking.it centers around the central theme of having children.naturally or with help,single or with partners and toss in cancer. It's one of the best things I've read lately.

Kate says

Kerry Reich's novels are always delicious to read to pleasure, but they also speak to the struggles and experiences of many around me. She has a unique way of making a simple story also a lesson on life, politics, career, health... and in this case, mostly Motherhood. So many of my friends should read this book for perspective!

Andrea at Reading Lark says

Review Posted on Reading Lark 7/9/12: <http://readinglark.blogspot.com/2012/...>

The definition of family is something that has evolved throughout time. In America, for a large portion of our cultural history, the nuclear family was deemed the ideal. I would argue that even during the time of the nuclear family that there were far more families out there that didn't meet the definition of this ideal than those that did. In modern society, there are so many different types of families. Kerry Reichs evaluates this concept in her newest book, What You Wish For.

I was intrigued that there were no nuclear ideals of family among these characters. Each one of them has a different view on what family should be and has a different plan for approaching their goal. The characters

are what makes this book so appealing. As the chapters bounce around to each one - revealing their perspectives - you form a kinship with this tribe of seemingly disconnected people. By the end, everything is clear on how these stories all fit together, but I really enjoyed making my own predictions as I read. The characters were what kept me thinking about this book and turning the pages; Reichs breathes life into these characters and makes them step off the pages into the world.

The book begins with Dimple, an actress who is just slightly past her expiration date as a hot young thing. She's still talented and gorgeous, but younger actresses are moving on to the scene and parts are becoming scarce. Dimple starts to take stock of her life and realizes that she has put so much on hold for her career. She decides it's time to become a mother before it's too late and starts a journey to learn more about using a donor. Dimple soon learns that life has its ways of dumping the unexpected into your lap.

In addition to Dimple's story, readers will also be thrown into the conflict between Maryn and Andy. The pair was once the perfect married couple, but Maryn's battle with breast cancer pulled them apart. Their frozen embryos hang in the balance as these two bicker about their fate and unleash a political storm they never expected. The ethical and moral issues surrounding these two were thought provoking and extremely relevant for our times. The battle between the rights of the mother and the rights of the father where frozen embryos are concerned could become quite the hot topic issue in the future as more and more people are seeking fertility treatments in order to conceive. The topic of IVF is explored at length throughout this book.

Next, there is Wyatt. Wyatt is a single man who never met a woman he wanted to spend the rest of his life with, but that doesn't mean he doesn't want to be a father. He starts a quest to adopt, but runs into road blocks at every turn. When I started reading, I have to admit that I did pause when I read that a single man wanted to adopt a baby. My mind didn't jump to nefarious purposes, but I have just never thought of men as being the ones with the urge to nest. Wyatt breaks all those stereotypes down. He was by far the most fascinating character in my opinion.

Finally, we get to the meet hilarious and Chuck Norris obsessed Eva. She is Wyatt's cousin and a talent agent. Her lifestyle is hectic and flashy. She has the power to conceive, but chooses not to have kids. Her story elements illustrate that family does not have to equal children. So many women today are choosing to remain childless. There is nothing wrong with this decision, in my opinion, but there are those who would disagree. At one point in the novel, Reichs calls attention to the phenomenon outright, "It seemed to Eva that if nature prevented you from having children through no fault of your own, you were a sympathetic figure, whereas her choice not to was 'unnatural'" (pg. 151). I have never understood why society feels it gets to bully those who choose not to become mothers. Eva's choices also bring with them a certain amount of guilt since Wyatt is trying so desperately to become a father.

Kerry Reichs has put together a story that is both heartbreaking and endearing; readers will spend equal portions laughing and crying. This is my first experience with Reichs' writing and I was pleasantly surprised. She has a knack for getting to the essence of an issue and showcasing it in ways that make it real and thought provoking. The concept of family is something that is on my mind a great deal so I was able to empathize with a majority of the characters on their quests to become parents. Reichs is one of those authors that forces the reader to think and feel. You cannot be passive with this one.

One Last Gripe: Eva's constant Chuck Norris' commentary went from being funny to annoying really fast

My Favorite Thing About This Book: Aside from the characters, I also really enjoyed seeing all the threads of the plot tied together in the final chapter

First Sentence: I have a baby shower, sort of an afternoon/evening thing, so unfortunately, I can't get together Saturday night.

Favorite Character: Wyatt

Least Favorite Character: Summer

Antonella says

Beautiful...Emotional...Funny...Real... and truly inspiring...

"Never wait to be asked twice to dance. Dance. Laugh often. Be noisy. Hug your father. Do something every day that doesn't make rational sense. Be joyful, though you have considered all the facts. Love freely, and love those who don't deserve it. Do a selfless thing each day. Every day won't be the best day in your life, but that's okay. If someone were to tell you the world would end tomorrow, plant a tree. Most of all, don't be afraid of risk. If you open yourself to opportunities, fortuities will land on your shoulder like birds. The only thing that holds you back in life is yourself."

Lydia Presley says

I remember the day it hit me that I was in my mid-30's and unmarried with no children on the horizon. It was a blow to me, I'm not going to lie. I'd grown up the eldest of nine and, even as a child, fully expected to be married by 21 and a mother by 22. I envisioned a house filled with childish laughter and a white picket fence out front. Now, at 35, I'm wiser and older (although the two did not happen concurrently) and have accepted the very real likelihood that motherhood is not in the works for me, just as I accepted that marriage was not for me about four years ago.

That's a very personal thing to put out there for a review, I admit. But that's how this book affected me. What You Wish For is a novel about unconventional parents. It's about adoption, IVF, natural pregnancy, birth, death, and life. It's real, honest, and it does not pull any punches. Kerry Reichs lays the facts out with brutal honesty and follows the natural path when it comes to the story of Maryn, Eva, Julian, Wyatt, and Dimple - even if that brings harm or an "unhappy ending."

Honestly, I loved and hated this book. I loved it for being so engrossing - I didn't want to put it down. I hated it for being so real. I hated seeing the facts about being a 35 year old woman put down on the page, and knowing that - if I decide to go the same route as Dimple - I may be facing some of the same difficulties. I hated reading about how difficult it is for a single man to adopt, or seeing what happens when zealots get their hands on information for political gains. What You Wish For is more than a feel-good novel, it's a contemporary study on what life is like now, what it is like to try to be a parent in a world that says that the "normal" parents are one man and one woman.

This is an important story and Kerry Reichs does a great job of pushing past the limits to deliver it.

Camille Hoffman says

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