



## Blue Jelly: Love Lost & the Lessons of Canning

*Debby Bull*

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## **Blue Jelly: Love Lost & the Lessons of Canning** Debby Bull

Take a hip writer and a hilarious search for an end to depression, and then toss in some wild huckleberries: you get into a very interesting jam... Its a funny route out of the kind of heartache every person has felt who's had a relationship, no matter how bad, come to a screeching halt. Debby Bull learns not only that depression can send you off on new adventures, but that for anything to turn out - especially jelly - it takes patience. With fifteen authentic canning recipes, Blue Jelly is the perfect panacea for anyone who's been searching for the light at the end of the tunnel.

## **Blue Jelly: Love Lost & the Lessons of Canning Details**

Date : Published April 1st 1997 by Hyperion Books

ISBN : 9780786862559

Author : Debby Bull

Format : Hardcover 176 pages

Genre : Autobiography, Memoir, Nonfiction, Food and Drink, Food, Cookbooks

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## From Reader Review Blue Jelly: Love Lost & the Lessons of Canning for online ebook

### Catherine says

Martha Stewart meets Cameron Crowe. A novel approach to "getting over the ex" and this genre. Light, funny and educational.

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### Debra says

Bull's depression drove her to jelly. Yes, the love of her life left her and as she tries one lame therapy or technique after another, we learn that there is a string of ruined relationships. She leaves the details of *the* failed relationship to our imagination. We just know she hates her life at this point. Canning and preserving is her means back to some semblance of normalcy. Each chapter ends with a jelly or jam or pickle recipe that somewhat illustrates the theme of the chapter. Don't dismiss the recipes. You need to read them in their entirety. If you skip the instructions you will certainly miss her discussions about dating semi-famous men and interviewing the likes of Bob Marley.

As Bull tries to pull herself together, she seeks out different paths (besides canning) to ease her suffering and to try to find enlightenment and happiness.

There's the 35,000-year-old channeler in the California desert.

There's the House of Gurus (no, wait, that's the House of Guns).

There's the therapist that equates her situation to the plot of *The Little Mermaid*.

There's the Loving Relationship weekend workshop that turns out to be rebirthing mumbo-jumbo.

There's getting sage advice from a mass murderer in a state mental institution.

There's another self-help retreat in the Bahamas, but she's on the outside looking in on that one.

There's the LA psychic.

There's her attendance of a murder trial, the suspect on trial for poisoning her abusive husband.

There's the trip to India for fortune telling and guru guidance.

As she weaves her hilarious tale of canning to survive, she describes her other near misses and relationship rubble:

She inspires a break up song that becomes a hit for Marty Stuart.

She gets kissed by Steven Wright during an interview and "thinks" they're dating for a while.

Luckily, she found her "own private Oprah" in Cara, a woman she met in the desert. Cara's no-nonsense-ness was about the only thing Bull had going for her, that and the jelly (and jam and pickles).

*Blue Jelly* is a quick read and although you might get a bit perturbed at the author and want to yell, "Snap outta' it!", I think by the final chapter you might smile. (Especially with her epilogue entitled "Better Than Botulism---A few things you need to know about canning.")

Regarding getting jelly to the proper temperature and stage, she writes, "This is the part where you have to concentrate. You could wreck everything, or you could turn your whole life around"(17). I think she needed to just stick with the jelly making. But then, we wouldn't have her humorous misadventures into

enlightenment.

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### **Sharon says**

I reread this book every couple of years. It makes me laugh out loud, and Debby Bull has a completely fresh, Generation X (I think) voice.  
Definitely a book for women.

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### **Annie Mahre says**

Funny and wise with good recipes!

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### **Eric\_W says**

I recently obtained an enormous selection of audiobooks in MP3 format from a company in England called Audiobooksforfree.com. They insert very short little promos at the beginning of each chapter, and that's how they are able to supply these books for free. They can be downloaded off the Internet or obtained in bulk. Of course, one takes the risk of getting crud or worse, abridged titles, but they are free.

I was poking around through the selections and stumbled on this little gem. Even though it's abridged, the episodic nature of the chapters means that the abridgement could be done without castrating the content, as is usually the case.

Debby Bull was a Rolling Stone editor and writer who became very depressed after the end of a love affair, and her book describes the odd little events and observations on her way through serious soul-searching. The best therapy, of the many she tried, was canning jellies and jams, and her comments before, during and after the recipes are hilarious. You will laugh out loud. Sheila and I listened to the book while traveling and both of us enjoyed it immensely. Listen to it. It's just great.

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### **Katt says**

Loved this book. It helped me think through a fog of Zanex and divorce papers.

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### **Katherine Joyce says**

144 pages, super short but sweet.

Great advice...when everything around you is crashing down and you can't control anything, find a little world that you can be the ruler of. Now I want to do some canning with my mama.

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## Greta says

Very entertaining! Following a bad breakup, the details of which are never fully revealed, the author turns to canning and travel to lift her spirits. Even the recipes, included at the end of each chapter, are entertaining to read, as the author embellishes the instructions somewhat with memories or comments.

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## Andi says

So somehow, when my dating life finally seems to be going well (really well - can you see my smile from there?), I find these great books like *Drunk, Divorced, and Covered in Cat Hair* that deal with break-ups. I think there's something to this - maybe I can just hear what these books have to say now. In any case, they're great.

And I just finished another wonderful one - *Blue Jelly* by Debby Bull. I will admit that it's not the best writing I've ever read - at times, Bull loses me completely, like a train of thought or crucial transition accidentally got deleted - but all of that gets overridden by the sentiment and concept of the book.

In short, after Bull's boyfriend leaves, she begins canning - making jelly, jam, blueberry butter, etc - and finds this therapeutic. In the book she details her emotional recovery and intersperses directions for canning various things. The recipes are solid and wittily conveyed, and at moments, Bull is prescient for anyone who has had a broken heart (and who hasn't?)

For instance, she says:

You get to practice restraint when you make jelly; the juice drips in an agonizingly slow way from the jelly bag, and you just have to wait. Crabapple juice is a dream pink. I've found that when you're really devastated, it's the best color to wear. People don't want to cream you when you're wearing pink. Instead, they'll ask you if you need anything, which is probably a far cry from the way Bob was treating you when he left.

The book is falling into a tradition of books by women who are empowering themselves to survive life's heartbreaks by using the tools women have often used - food, yarn, and conversation. These may be things feminism should not have been so quick to discard. Is it really bad to be in the kitchen if we choose to put ourselves there?

So pick up Bull's book for the recipes and the insight - and the laughs (those that may even come through tears). And if you're down, make something - apple butter, bread, a scarf . . . Love yourself back; this seems key.

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## Heather says

I read this book a couple of years ago. I remember loving it. I should read it again sometime. I also remember that it had some great/unique jelly recipes.

## **Katie says**

Another breakup book, but this one was really different. Her wit is apparent, but is muted because of her sadness. I can understand that.

There's hope at the end, as well as an appendix on canning, and it is actually something I really want to try.

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## **gina says**

A fabulously quick read. If David Sedaris had been a female with a canning obsession, he would have written a book like this. I love her smooth easy style of writing. It's very conversational and to the point. Make sure to read the fine print of the recipes or you'll miss out on some very funny commentary and tips. I think only people who have a)ever been depressed and b)canned and c)wondered why everyone else seems to be married and with kids will get the dark honest humor of this book. If I could quote this whole book I would.

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## **Bonnie says**

I'm a sucker for cooking as a metaphor, and in no other book have I run across it more than in this one. A wonderful laugh-at, laugh-along book, and a quick read. I read the entire thing, 144 short pages, on a walk through a ravine, and just enough up a hill to snatch a bunch of wild green grapes from the backyard of a sunflower miser, while a hawk floated lazily overhead to remind me that life can be light and breezy.

Crab Apple Jelly: "Add the sugar to the boiling juice, stir to dissolve it, and boil fast to the jelly stage. This is the part where you have to concentrate. You could wreck everything, or you could turn your whole life around."

"If you don't know what a jelly bag is, invent something. It'll make you feel too clever to be in a relationship with a jerk."

But the author really had me from the get-go with, "You can die trying to get along with a disagreeable man."

And then the redemptive ending: "And there it was, suddenly and quickly, out of nowhere, that feeling I'd almost forgotten, when someone's heart opens to let you in. I knew that I wouldn't be canning for a while, but I had absorbed in every cell the lesson of jelly: if you are patient enough, it always turns out."

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## **Vicki says**

A very funny book if you are in the mood.

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## **Lisa says**

I read this book in one sitting. I love when people write from a place of complete vulnerability and honesty, and especially when they do it with humor, and that's exactly what this author did. Plus she really makes you want to learn how to make jam!

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