



The Surrogate

Judith Henry Wall

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To a penniless twenty-year-old like Jamie Long, surrogate motherhood seemed both an act of altruism and a financial opportunity. But once pregnant and under contract to Amanda Hartmann, the head of a famous evangelical family, Jamie realizes that she's getting more than she bargained for. Whisked away to the vast, isolated family ranch, she's closely supervised and carefully cut off from the outside world. She learns the family's dark secrets -- and sees the enormity of their ruthlessness. When Jamie hears Amanda's plan to claim the baby as her natural-born child, she begins to suspect that her own life is in danger and resolves to flee.

Alone with a tiny newborn, she calls on the one man in the world she can trust -- her high school crush, Joe Brammer. Their love unites them in a struggle to escape, and soon enough their flight becomes a fight for their lives.

Brilliantly weaving some of today's most controversial social issues into a captivating page-turner, *The Surrogate* is Judith Henry Wall's greatest triumph to date.

The Surrogate Details

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Author : Judith Henry Wall

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Caitlin says

The story was interesting enough, though I did find myself bored at times. The religious/political portions are where I started to yawn and consider skipping ahead. There was a lot of political hidden messaging (though not very hidden) throughout the book. I thought, "My, this author really has an agenda!" Then I read the interview with the author at the end, and realized I was correct.

All of that aside, the rest of the story was very interesting, and I did really enjoy it. I found Jamie to be an adorable, like able heroine. She had a little kick-ass to her, but was rightfully terrified at the appropriate moments.

I didn't like Gus's character. Not just because he was the "bad guy," but because he was boring. When his narration came up, I found myself counting how many boring pages I would have to read until the voice was changed over again.

Definitely a nail-biter at times. I would say I enjoyed the book, just kind of a snore at times.

Tiff says

Totally cheesy, but I couldn't put it down. Should be a movie on Lifetime. (Probably already is.)

Carolyn says

i admit. i tired of it, so i actually skipped to the end and read what happened.

Amanda says

I thought that was a very good read. I really wanted to know what happened next and kept reading with my pulse racing and my heart in my throat. The reason I gave it 4 stars instead 5 is because there were parts that were just a little out there and parts of the book were very slow in reading. All in all a great book that kept me up into the wee hours of the morning hoping for a good resolution.

Ann says

I have mixed feelings about this book. The characters were interesting (I could easily see this being adapted into a movie), and the storyline was definitely thrilling. However, some parts seemed to drag on too long, and I was distracted by the constant explicit foreshadowing...I felt like the author repeatedly thought I wasn't bright enough to figure things out for myself and needed to know what was coming up right before it happened. You know that when Jamie packs her bag with extra clothes and food before she heads out to

walk on the beach that the villains are going to be breaking into her cottage. (Similarly, Joe's ex-lover thinks "What if he wasn't in trouble at all but some woman was? His lover, or his wife?") In a thriller, I want to either figure things out for myself or be surprised...I felt like I was watching a movie where a friend kept saying "watch...here's where the bad guys are about to try to grab her!"

Overall, the book was an enjoyable read, but a little more subtlety would have gone a long way!

Kristen says

Jamie Long had a difficult life. Her parents died when she was young and her sister didn't want to take care of her so she lived with her grandma. She was in college and doing well when she found out her grandma was ill so she dropped out to take care of her. She goes into debt helping her grandma through her last months. Because of her debt, she decides to be a surrogate for a couple that can't have children. The woman is a televangelist who is a very public figure so Jamie is kept "locked up" and constantly supervised at the couples ranch. All is fine until Jamie finds out some information that is unsettling. She finds a way to escape and contacts a childhood friend. Can she get away from the couple who have ties everywhere and seem to be above the law?

Brittany says

This book was okay. I kept thinking that I would rather watch it play out on the Lifetime channel, rather than read it! It's kinda cheesy, and way far-fetched. But it was an easy and somewhat suspenseful read. Overall, I am not disappointed.

Rebecca McNutt says

The Surrogate is such a haunting and unforgettable thriller, a story of a desperate couple who'll go to extreme lengths to get a baby... even if it means doing something sinister to have one to call their own.

Kaiti Rae says

Overall an okay "quick read".. but the ending was lacking... I found the whole book to be extremely far-fetched.. and predictable.. The flashback (or flashforward i guess) at the very beginning was somewhat of a spoiler to me. :(I agree with others that it could make a good lifetime movie.. but as a book.. it is simply lacking.

Valerie says

This was a sad read for me in the sense that it had such potential but fell short in so many ways. The characters never really seemed to come to life, especially Jamie. I never got a sense of who she was. The love story between her and Joe was downright cheesy in parts. And some of the lines they pulled were so

cliche I was rolling my eyes over and over. Ack, it was difficult to read in parts. Too bad because the topic was really intriguing but the author didn't pull it off.

Crystal Craig says

I'd never read this author before so I had no idea what to expect. It turned out to be a quick read and a book I had a hard time putting down. In the beginning, I thought the lead character was going to be weak and wishy-wash, but she surprised me and turned out to be strong and very resourceful. I really enjoyed this book.

Wendy says

This book was incredibly hard to put down. Jamie Long, after losing both parents and her grandmother and amassing huge credit card debts to care for her grandmother, decides that surrogate motherhood sounds like a good way to make some money to be able to get out of debt and go back to school. The first call she makes brings her into the world of Amanda and Gus Hartmann, a sister and brother who are legendary in religious and political circles. Amanda and her husband Toby enter into a contract with Jamie that requires her to disappear for a year onto the family ranch to give birth because of privacy concerns. While this seems strange to Jamie, the money offered is immense and would solve her money concerns for the rest of her life. She has the procedure and then is transported to the ranch where she finds herself under "house arrest." She can not go anywhere without a companion/guard. As the pregnancy progresses, she finds out some strange things about the Hartmann family, courtesy of Amanda's mother Mary Millicent. She begins to believe that the contract she has signed is not aboveboard in any way and begins to fear for her life. When she leaves the compound, she is on the run from a powerful force in Gus who operates above the law. She finds her childhood friend Joe Brammer to help her and the two of them are intent on protecting Jamie and her baby from the Hartmanns at any cost.

The suspense in his book made it one that was hard to put down. The characters were compelling and the story incredible.

Sammantha says

A friend had recommended this book to me. She had read it and said she loved it. I was definitely hooked after reading the synopsis. I can only imagine deciding to become a surrogate mother. I'm not sure if that would be something I could personally do. But for the character Jamie, it was something she thought she could go through with and really being a young woman in college, she could definitely use the money. I really wanted to drive right into this book. The beginning of the story was very intriguing and it pulls you into the story. A few times I just had to keep reading to see what was going to happen next. As I'm reading through the book there are parts in the story where I just thought "What is wrong with these people?" The characters were pretty well written. After about halfway through the book, I noticed it did drag on some and left me feeling somewhat bored and thinking okay come on with the story already! But I have to say it was an okay book. The ending wasn't all that great for me either. I wish the author had a better way of ending it especially since the middle dragged on. But overall it was an okay book. It wouldn't be one to be read again.

Annie says

It has been so long since I read a page turner like this. This was the kind of book that kept me thinking about it all day, reading on my lunch break and rushing home to curl up in bed with it.

Shelby *trains flying monkeys* says

I read this book in one day because I couldn't put it down.
