



# As Long as We Both Shall Live

*Lurlene McDaniel*

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*A change is coming*, April Lancaster's fortune cookie reads. *Be prepared*. But how could she be prepared for the news that she has an inoperable brain tumor? April's life will never be the same. Then she meets handsome Mark Gianni. Mark has cystic fibrosis, but he also has a passion for life . . . and for April. When he asks April to marry him, she's happier than she's ever been.

April thought she and Mark would be together forever. But since Mark's death, April has never felt more alone. Then Brandon Benedict comes into her life. Brandon is lonely and angry—he and April have a lot in common. But April cannot tell Brandon about her illness. When April's medical problems suddenly return, she must decide what to tell Brandon. Can the love she's felt before help her now?

### As Long as We Both Shall Live Details

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Author : Lurlene McDaniel

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as long as we boht shall love was an incredible book. the first novel in this book was really sad. When April met Mark at the hospital and instantly fell in love he made her a stronger person when she felt like her world had come to an end with her tumor back. Although he had cistic fibrosis she saw past that and relized how amamzing he was. The two had a strong connection and they never let their troubles get in the way. The second novel was heart wrenching! Aprils trying to move on and forget but she can't. Until she meets brandon. he turns her world upside down and changes her sad point of view of the world. Maybe everything isn't as bad as it seems; all you need is love and a little hope. I gave this book five stars because the details were really good and it made me think what i would do if i lost a loved one.

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### **Ashley says**

Knowing this book was for teenagers I expected it to be a little predictable and bubble-gummy. Boy was I right. I could pretty much tell you how the book was going to end and what was going to happen next after reading the first couple of pages. Didn't stop me from continuing though. Even though it was for the younger generation it was still a good read for me. It reminded me of the ones like it that I used to read when I was 15. It showed me how much I had moved on to more adult novels and stuff and I sorda missed it. I tried not to cry at the end - I tried hard but a few tears still trickled down my face. No matter how young the audience the book is intended for, it still struck a nerve in my heart. I knew what kind of book it was before I cracked it open but I didn't think it'd have effect on me.

It's awesome if you're in your teens and it's a nice, comforting read if you're an adult and want to be reminded on how fragile life is. A bit depressing but still a good love story with tragedy.

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### **Michelle. D. says**

This book is hust sad. Sad, sad, sad. Not sad as in this was such a complete failure. But the sad that you wanna cry or something.

The love in the two books is so lovey-dovey and corney but you gotta love it. You just find it so compelling for some reason. But since it is mixed with sadness, you wanna cry. Most of the major events in the boook made me want to bawl my eyes out. Like, for real. It was so saddddd. DX  
Seriously.

One thing I wanna point out without really mentioning anything from the book is that when he was all alone and he read the thingie, I felt so bad for him. Because, you know, what happened. I kinda like him but I like 'him' much better even though that thing happened and you know.  
Anyway, I don't really have much to say anymore. Talking about this book makes me sad.

That's it. The 'review' is done.

All i have to say to the people who will one day read this book is that it was really sad, and you might cry. That's how sad it is. Really, REALLY sad. Or am I just exagerating?

I dunno. I thought it was really sad. So you are warned. Youw know this book will be sad if you ever read it. Just remember, you. are. warned.

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## **Traceylee says**

### **Why**

I had already read the first in these series and wanted to get hot books in one. They are both stories you need a box of Kleenex never. This is a great author. One of my favourite

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## **Frank says**

These two novels were very well done but not as inspirational as her others one are. These two really are on dying and are a little tough to get through, especially the second one.

The first book Till Death do us part, I found I could not relate to the relationship of the two main characters. Both had death deal medical issues but I could never feel the special connection between them. It almost seemed more like a relationship of convenience. It was meant to be true love and dealing with tough illnesses, living fully although you are dying, but it just didn't seem to come together that well. It was still very good and told the story of relationships with friends when you are suddenly diagnosed with a serious illness.

The second book, "For Better for worse, forever" was well written and really did accomplish all the writer was trying to do. Even so you should have a lot of Kleenex on hand when you read it. This book continues from where the prior book left off. April is trying to deal with the loss of her fiancée when she meets a young man and finds it is possible to love two men. She has a great time in St. Croix and then the headaches return and she knows she is going to die and there is nothing anyone can to change that. And the rest of the book deals with her preparing for her death and then actual moment she dies. It is full of emotions for her and her parents and her boy friend.

This last book is very good but hard to deal with. No matter how accurate it is hard to deal with facing death and I think even harder watching another die, another who is very close to you. But on the other hand it helps people face the issue of a terminal illness especially if the person wants to die at home.

If you like happy endings like me you will not like these, yet they are very real to life and even if you don't like them you find a subtil acceptance and bitter sweet endurance.

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## **Isabelle Medina says**

The book "As Long As We Both Shall Live" by Lurlene Mcdaniel tells the story of a girl who has cancer at the age of 18. Overall, I thought the book was really good because when she was at the hospital for a normal check for cancer ,she was with her best friend and then acriss from her room she saw this boy who also has cancer his name is Mark and he is 4 years older than April. When Mark saw her he thought she was so beautiful that he made a move on her. But then His cancer got serious because he has CF cancer which means that he has a hard time breathing ,on the day of his race he got into a car accident while racing ,his lungs couldn't handle it no more. He died on the day he purposed to April.The best part of the book was when he purposed to her and when they found out that he wasn't gonn make it they got married at the place they first meet in the hospital.

### **Kylie Reeser says**

April Lancaster is just a normal young girl who wants to experience life until she is diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. While in the hospital April feels really down that she will not live much longer but everything changes when she meets Mark Gianni. Mark has cystic fibrosis and he has a strong passion for life. She is immediately drawn to him and he is infatuated with her. Mark asks April to marry him and she is extraordinarily happy until Mark suddenly dies and she is left alone. In her hour of need Brandon comes into her life and he is more sad and alone than her. Together they must face their fears and struggles all while gaining an unbreakable friendship.

I just thought this book was okay. I have read a couple of her other books and I have not really loved any of them because they are really sad and dramatic. It is a great love story and she does a really good job developing her characters. I think she is good at writing I just have a hard time getting past the cheesiness of it all. I have cried however, in every single one of her books and I will read more of them on a day when I need a relaxant. Again I would not use this in the classroom because I just do not think it is useful in any way but I would recommend it to high school girls who like romance stories.

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### **Esteban Granobles says**

Nice and easy to digest!

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### **Maggie says**

Oh wow, I loved this book! I think that the first was better than the second, but they came really close within each other. It made me cry so much! Lurlene McDaniel, in these two novels, tells of how the unexpected and unfair things that happen to us, and that also you can love two people at the same time. I recommend it to anyone who loves Lurlene McDaniel's works, or even new fans. It made a great read.

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### **Alexia says**

This book was really good I would recommend this book

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### **Kristin says**

I read a lot of McDaniels' books when I was a teenager and remember them as all being written with the same formula. Teenager gets sick (or is born sick), something really great happens, then the teenager dies. This book followed that pattern except that it was actually 2 books in one, so everything happened twice. The first half focuses on Alison, who had a brain tumor when she was 5 and it has come back. While in the hospital for tests, she meets Mark, who is a frequent visitor every time his cystic fibrosis flares up. Once

Alison's brain tumor is determined to be inoperable, most of her friends, including her boyfriend stay away from her, and she finds herself falling for Mark. They spend lots of time together, much to the disappointment of both sets of parents, as Alison is just 17 and her wealthy parents feel she could do better than date a guy whose life expectancy is very short, while Marc's parents, specifically his mother, doesn't approve of many of her son's choices, including his race car driving, and fears he is keeping too many secrets from Alison. The couple endures though and gets engaged, but Marc ends up fighting for his life after an accident at a race leaves his lungs in even worse shape. Alison wears her wedding dress to visit him in the hospital, and that night he dies.

Still reeling from Mark's death, Alison begins the second book confronted by the reality that her future is just as uncertain. While her high school friends all go off to college, Alison decides it is best for her to go to school close to home, a wise decision once the brain tumor stops responding to treatment. Once Alison realizes that she won't ever get better, she and her family leave for a tropical island vacation, where she meets Brandon, a guy coping with the recent suicide of his alcoholic mother. Being around Alison seems to brighten Brandon's spirits, so she keeps her illness a secret from him. One day, Alison's family leaves the island in a rush and Brandon feels that the connection they seemed to have built was all fake, but actually she was just going home to see her doctors who tell her that the end is coming soon. Upon returning to the island, Alison lets Brandon in on the truth and he stays by her side until the night she dies.

Very fast read, but also very much like her other books I read 10-15 years ago. Once I saw that it was a 2 book volume, I knew both of the main characters from the first book would die by the end of the second (the preview of the second actually mentioned that Mark dies in the first). Probably would not have chosen this book because I knew it would be sad and predictable, but it was in our lending library at work and I didn't have a book with me at the time, so I figured why not.

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## **I'd So Rather Be Reading {Nat} says**

I gravitate towards books about chronic illness...because I have one myself. I tend to really relate to characters struggling with any kind of illness, and April's brain tumor and Mark's cystic fibrosis are what drew me towards these two books.

Book one: Till Death Do Us Part was my favorite of the two. I loved how Mark chases April so determinedly until she falls for him. I loved Mark's optimism and his outlook on life. He had every reason to be depressed, having cystic fibrosis and knowing that his life span would be shortened because of it, not to mention the daily struggles he endured just to breathe. But, he was one of the most positive characters I have ever read about. He was a real glass-half-full type of person. I loved that!

I didn't feel close to April in either of the books. I think that this was due to the fact that the books were a third-person narrative. I think a first person narrative would have been so much better. I would have liked to be privy to April's innermost thoughts from her, not from an outside perspective.

Book two: For Better, For Worse, Forever, was just okay for me. I never really identified with Brandon and he and April's relationship was so doomed from the start, that I had a hard time cheering them on. I did like his change at the end of the novel, and thought it was a fitting end.

Overall, I did enjoy these two novels. They were short, fast reads (I read them both in less than three hours). They are not your typical happily-ever-after kind of book, and in fact, the ending of both books had me in tears. They were sad, realistic, but well-written and I'm glad I read them. Just be ready to have your tissues close by!

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## **Anah says**

Oh, yes. I loved this in middle school. Tear jerker for adolescents.

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