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The Things We Do For Love: A Novel



Synopsis

Years of trying unsuccessfully to conceive a child have broken more than Angie DeSaria's heart. Following a painful divorce, she moves back to her small Pacific Northwest hometown and takes over management of her family's restaurant. In West End, where life rises and falls like the tides, Angie's fortunes will drastically change yet again when she meets and befriends a troubled young woman. Angie hires Lauren Ribido because she sees something special in the seventeen-year-old. They quickly form a deep bond, and when Lauren is abandoned by her mother, Angie offers the girl a place to stay. But nothing could have prepared Angie for the far-reaching repercussions of this act of kindness. Together, these two women—one who longs for a child and the other who longs for a mother's love—will be tested in ways that neither could have imagined.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I was looking for something to read on vacation and what a wonderful surprise! I was so pleased with this book that I am back today to buy at least 3 or 4 more by this author. I am a great fan of LaVyrle Spencer and was heartbroken when she quit writing but Kristin Hannah has a very similar style and I am so excited to have discovered her. The characters are so real and the stories so believable that you forget it is a novel. Can't wait to get my package from !

Angela and Conlan Malone divorce after fourteen years of marriage because she never recovered from emotional setbacks caused by her infant's death and a failed adoption. The advertising guru

flees Seattle for her hometown of West End, a few hours away. In town, her recently widowed mom and her sisters welcome her home, but the siblings still hold some resentment on the special treatment their dad provided to his Princess while they slaved in the family restaurant, DeSaria's. Since the fourth grade, Lauren Ribaldo has worked to insure she would never duplicate the loser life of her mother. When she lost her job due to cutbacks, she searched for employment to pay the rent, but high school seniors have limited opportunities. Angela needs to help the teen, finally hiring her as a waitress while she struggles to save the family business. As she helps Lauren improve her life, Angela feels she receives more back as she has the child she always wanted, though she thought it would be playgrounds for a while not fancy dates. DÃ©jÃ© vu will soon test the relationship between these proud folks. Readers will appreciate this deep relationship drama starring a solid female protagonist struggling with emotional setbacks and a fine support crew that brings Angela further alive for the audience. The story line is filled with emotional excitement whether it is the restaurant, the broken link with Conlan or the growing relationship between Angela and Lauren. Fans of a five tissue box character study will enjoy THE THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE and want a future tale starring an older Lauren. Harriet Klausner

While taking care of a three and half year old boy who got sick with a stomach bug over the holiday weekend ~~ I needed something light to read in between laundry duty and dishes and nurturing a little boy. I picked this one up and was engrossed into the story till 1 a.m.! It's been awhile since I've been able to do something like this! This is probably my first Kristin Hannah book ~~ and I was leery of picking it up since I am on a roll with my nonfiction reading. I am glad though that I picked it up! It's been ages since I have laid in bed and finished a book in hours! This book is about Angie who returned home to her small town after leaving a high profile advertising career in Seattle. She just went through a divorce ~~ not a bitter divorce, just a very sad one. She had given up her dreams of having a baby after suffering for years with miscarriages, infertility issues and losing her little baby, Sophia. She comes home to where her family is and rediscovers her dreams. Lauren, the other main character in the story, is a loveless seventeen year old, who has worked very hard in maintaining a scholarship at the local private school. She works full time after school and is dating the star of the football team, David. Lauren and Angie discover one another and helped each other to heal. It is a beautiful story ~~ lots of promises and hope and joy. There is sadness and tears but it is a happy ever ending story ~~ which is what I like to read once in awhile! The scenery and the food descriptions sound wonderful ~~ and it sure is a great escape novel! =0) This is a perfect read for any time, especially in the summertime when it's hot out and you need to keep still to keep cool! I

plan on reading another one of this author's books if I see them around!5-30-06

I didn't think I'd like this because it involves a woman's struggles to get pregnant. She had miscarriages and a baby died days later; ended in divorce. But, this was a chance for Angie to seek a new desire: to move out of her box and cater to someone else's needs. Her relationship with poor Lauren who finds herself pregnant is perfect. I love the fact that Angie's husband returns to her as well after she finds herself running mom's restaurant in need of financial and otherwise uplift. This is a suspenseful novel and well written. One doesn't know until the very end how Lauren will vote re giving up her baby since her wealthy boyfriend has his college football career to pursue. But, all characters are drawn sensitively and that's new too. Excellent.

This was a great story all about reaching out to others. In this book, Angie, who was newly divorced and lonely, comes back home to help run the family business, the Desaria Restaurant. After getting divorced from her husband Conlan, she needed something else in her life. And what better than helping the failing family restaurant with new plans?As Angie turns the restaurant around, a new girl comes into her life, Lauren, a teenager whose mother is an alcoholic who just lays around all day. Lauren has such a longing to be wanted and loved by someone, and is really trying to make something out of herself. When Angie meets this girl at the Help Your Neighbor shelters, she takes to her. She seeks Lauren out for a waitressing job at DeSaria's, and Lauren turns out to be a great help there.As Angie becomes closer to Lauren, the two become great friends. When Lauren becomes pregnant with her boyfriend David's child, she needs a place to turn to, and as the story moves on, Lauren is there for her all the way.Conlan is coming back into Angie's life as well, and whether or not the two will re-connect, the story goes on to tell. Lauren has a very difficult decision to make on what to do about her impending baby. It is Angie and Conlan, whom since losing two precious children of their own, may want to adopt Lauren's child. But only time will tell whether Lauren has the strength to give her child up or not.This is a story all about love, reaching out, and sacrifices.

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