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Worth The Wait (St. James Book 1)



Synopsis

Thirteen years ago, Vivi LeBrun was sketching a rooster and eating Oreos when she first met "and fell for" her friend's brother, David St. James. Since then, her love for David has only intensified thanks to years of friendship with his family, who rescued her from a lonely, tumultuous childhood. As she travels to Block Island to vacation with the St. James siblings, Vivi daydreams about reuniting with David, hoping he'll finally see her as his soul mate. After his mother's death, David distanced himself from his siblings, determined to hide a devastating family secret. Now, he's brought a new girlfriend along to his homecoming "one who's pushing for a serious commitment. The last thing he needs on his growing list of problems is his budding attraction to Vivi. With tensions running high, David's behavior triggers a series of events that might cost him the love he's always taken for granted and Vivi the only real family she's ever known.

Book Information

File Size: 2221 KB

Print Length: 306 pages

Publisher: Montlake Romance (March 17, 2015)

Publication Date: March 17, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00M2INCL2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #611 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #4 in Books >

Literature & Fiction > Women's Fiction > Single Women #78 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks >

Literature & Fiction > Women's Fiction > Romance #85 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks >

Literature & Fiction > Contemporary Fiction > Women's Fiction

Customer Reviews

Vivi, an artsy gal, falls for a friend's older brother, David, in their teenage years. And so begins the story of unrequited love. David's mother dies and David heads out into the world. Many years pass where David is estranged from family and friends. They all meet up again at Block Island for a

vacation and the action takes off. David is aloof since the death of their mother many years earlier and no one can understand why, especially Vivi. He has brought a new girlfriend along who is the polar opposite of Vivi. Unrequited love turns into a love triangle - sparks fly - and you are hooked! The book continues with action and emotion and is a page turner until the very end. A strong theme of forgiveness runs through the story line with each character well developed, believable and vulnerable.

Vivi LeBrun not only lost her brother and mother in a car crash. She lost her father too. His alcoholism adds a new responsibility and burden for young Vivi. She finds shelter within her best friend's family. The St. James family is wealthy and down-to-earth. They are a loving family, and accept Vivi as one of their own. Yet there is one family member that she has long adored. Vivi is all grown up and ready for more than friendship with David St. James. A promise is tormenting David. His mother made a dying wish. He fled overseas in his effort to honor it. Now there is a rift in his family. No one understands him anymore, especially Vivi, his staunchest devotee. The St. James siblings attempt to reconnect during a vacation. Vivi is also invited. Maybe this is her chance to finally get David to see they belong together. • Worth the Wait • has a good story at its heart. A nice girl with a long-time crush on her best friend's brother has appealing qualities. A friends-to-lovers romance versus falling-fast romance • well, friends-to-lovers stories are usually highly enjoyable reads for this reader. The narrative is just a bit too heavy. Plus, elements of the plot and characters are reminiscent of a teen holiday romance. The hero and heroine seem much younger than their age. Vivi, the heroine, is very much like a young girl crushing on a college boy. There is too much time where adoring Vivi and moody David are on unequal ground. Eventually, she develops a backbone. Also, David is a hard hero to embrace. Teen David revealed a very promising hero; he was so sweet and kind. He does improve near the end. Vivi's road to happiness is very rocky, but she does find David worth the wait. ARC courtesy of Montlake via Netgalley

I received a complimentary book from Net Galley and the publisher in exchange for an honest review. I loved this book! This shocked me because it is not my usual romantic suspense book. This book is a romance book, but it also involves a family's relationship with each other. The characters were very realistic and the situations believable. This is the first book that I have read by this author, but it will not be my last. I loved that this was not a "lickety-split. Love grows in the way it normally happens - slow and surely. Vivi has always loved David but he leaves after his mother dies. When

he does return, it is with a girlfriend. In spite of that, Vivi values his friendship so much that she continues being his friend. The book gets even better when David, who is holding a devastating secret about his family, exhibits behavior that triggers events that could destroy the entire family. This is a fantastic book that you will not want to put down until you reach the end!

I read the first thirty pages of this story a couple years back in a contest and loved the opening so much the author gave me an advanced copy. She did NOT ask me to review it in exchange, but as a thank you for my encouraging words. As soon as I opened the pages I was once again sucked back into the story, which is so much more than just a romance. As a person with a complicated family, I totally understand the characters. Siblings in real life very rarely cut each other slack, and Cat and Jacks came across as living, breathing, honest-to-God family members. They gave David a bad time, yet they were doing the same thing. So typical. David has issues (don't we all), and I loved how he wanted to honor his mom's request and protect his brother and sister, even if the two things were conflicting with each other. Was he a jerk? At times, but with reason. Yet at the same time his attitude and opinion toward/about Vivi remained steadfast. He's always been her friend, always stood up for her and always seen her as a special and wonderful person. In the midst of his turmoil, this hasn't changed. Vivi is delightful and fun and so full of life. She's full of love and loyal to a fault and at times you just want to be her. But she's not perfect, so there are times she loses her patience with David. I love how she tries to bury her long-time feelings and go on, even if she can't. I loved that even though she was hurting, she never stopped being David's friend (real love isn't easy to push away), but that she stood up for herself too. Overall, I thought this was a well-delivered, well-written story about love, family, and friendship. I really hope the author gives us Cat's and Jack's stories so we can see them grow and find happiness.

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