



Honeysuckle and Jasmine

Liz Grace Davis

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The past is never far behind.

Senia Loato's life has been needled by disappointment, and the wounds that fester go beyond skin deep. She is certain if she puts miles between her and her tainted past, she will somehow outrun it. When she's offered the chance to leave her island home of Mintang to become an au pair for three boys in Germany, she takes the opportunity to start running.

In Germany, she meets Miina, another African au pair. What builds between them is a life-defining friendship, one they will risk everything for.

And soon, they'll be asked nothing less.

When Miina is betrayed and left stranded, Senia stands by her, risking much more than just her stay in Germany. She also stands to lose rich, handsome, turquoise-eyed Roman Dorenwald, the first man she has allowed into her heart.

But they're risks worth taking.

Eventually, Senia makes a sacrifice that catapults her back to her past, where she's forced to draw back the curtain and discover the shocking truth of her history.

Can she confront her nightmares, reach deep into her soul, and forgive those who have hurt her? Or is it easier to just keep running?

This novel was partly inspired by true events

Honeysuckle and Jasmine Details

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From Reader Review Honeysuckle and Jasmine for online ebook

Jaci says

To say the least this book offered me a world of disappointment. I was really hoping to learn more about African traditions and see a believable coming of age story, but to me this read like a cheesy romance novel and I was not impressed.

First off did anyone else feel the chapters ended strangely? On more than one occasion it felt very abrupt, almost like a diary entry reciting the day and then it moved on to something else with very little transition. That bothered me, but it wasn't the worst.

Mintang is fake. I mean I know you're all probably thinking this dumb girl has no idea about Africa thinking this shit was real and you're right I don't! But that's why I wanted to read this to have some insight into African culture, but I got absolutely none. Zip, zero, zilch.

Past the fake country fiasco and that disappointment the whole relationship with Senia and Roman made me wanna vomit. Oh super nice totally rich dude to come save the damsel in distress? Gag me. If this book left out Roman entirely and was just Senia and Miina I think I would have been able to overlook some things, but having the rich Morgan family take care of her, then the rich Roman, then the rich long lost mom was too much. It was so much perfect opportunity for one girl. I just didn't think it was believable. Nor that Senia deserved all of it. Miina on the other hand needed some help. Miina felt more like a real person to me than Senia did. That's just my prerogative.

Long story short, read if you like romance novels. But not if you're looking for anything more.

Diane says

I received this ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Another great story by Liz Davis. I enjoyed this book very much. I could picture the characters and places from the author's descriptions. This was a story of a special friendship and love. I didn't want the book to end.

Dana says

A story of friendship and hope. Senia a Mintang orphan rejected and abandoned makes her way in Germany on a work visa with a host families support and love.

Miina originally from Namibia also works in Germany as an Au pair, but her host family is unscrupulous and denies her the luxury of a pleasant parting when she is dismissed from their service. She and Senia become friends and sisters as they both have moved away from their host families relying on each other for support at different times, they both have no one else to put their trust in. Senia meets Roman through an externship when she goes into a fashion college, and finds out that Roman is her boss and falls deeply in love with him,

and he as well falls for Senia. But there are some important things that she's kept to herself regarding her life, and her friendship with Miina. And she cannot betray her past memories or her friend's trust. This was a nice read, and kept me turning the pages.

Jennifer says

Ms. Davis has created a beautiful read in "Honeysuckle and Jasmine." The characters are rich, the amount of emotion is just right and it swept me along from the very start. In a world where life is brutal and difficult, this book shows that true and abiding friendship, faith and love will bring you through any trial. This book made me think about all of the things in life that I have to be grateful for. It touched my heart and made me smile. I found myself holding my breath, wanting to cry and feeling like jumping up and down (even though I was in a public place), all because of the various experiences that the characters faced and the way in which they faced them. This book is inspiring in its sincerity and its simplicity. If you love a happy ending or you need a lift up, this is the book for you.

I hope to someday become the kind of friend that Senia and Miina are to each other. Thank you, Liz Grace Davis, for another beautiful read.

With a heart full of gratitude,
Jennifer Schultz

K. Kotun says

I really enjoyed Honeysuckle and Jasmine from start to finish; It takes you on a journey with two women - Senia and Miina, who become friends and go through so many trials together; you almost feel like the third friend who is willing them on and hoping that it all ends well.

It's no fairy-tale but instead very realistic, and that's what I identified with; you felt their emotions, pain, disappointment, stress, and of course you willed on Senia to build a new life with Roman.

It's got a twist at the end as well, just ending the story brilliantly.

I read this story at a fast pace - once I started, I had to finish it.

A wonderful read!

Christy says

This was a raw and deep story of two girls seeking a way to become independent and make a world or themselves. They both left their home countries and moved to Germany where they met.

Senia and Miina became great friends and helped each other through many things both good and bad. They overcame trials and rose above the craziness of their lives.

There was a patient love story in the book but it was really not the main component of the story. The ultimate take away for me was just at how strong these two women were even after having been stabbed in the back they still manage to overcome and succeed in life.

Linda Juliano says

The talent Liz Davis possesses as a writer is showcased once again in her latest novel, Honeysuckle and Jasmine. Truly a beautiful and touching tale of friendship and true love.

It was a pleasure to follow Senia as she experiences real love for the first time in her life. She finds love first through friendship when she meets Miina, a beautiful, generous soul. Then she finds love a second time when she meets Roman, the first man to show her that her heart has the ability to heal and fall in love after all it's endured.

Honeysuckle and Jasmine is a beautifully woven story that captures the true meaning of friendship and love and the healing powers they possess.

Cynthia says

Rating 5+

All I can say is wow! I didn't know what to expect, I sure was not expecting what I got out of this book. I had not read a book by this author to say she floored me just doesn't explain what I felt when reading it. I am thinking 347 pages at least a 2 to 3 day read man was I ever wrong. This is a book I did not want to put down I read it in one day.

To live just part of what Senia and Miina lived through is say a lot, to live the full of their life words just can't explain. Life is not always easy, sometimes we think are life is tough, just how much more can one person take. Then you read a book like this and find our life isn't so bad. We live in the land of the free, we do not have to worry if we have someone coming up to us and taking our life away. Making us leave our homes, sending us back were we came from not to mention all the other things they had to deal with.

This is a book about dreams, to remind us if we work hard our dreams can come true. It is about hope, love, friendship, caring, laughing, fear, starting over, and happiness just to name a few. We each have choices in our life, different paths we could go down, we must make the right choice and in doing so our lives will be rich in more than money but in our dreams coming true. Will the road be easy? No there will be many rocks and bumps along the way but we will get there in time if we just try.

Friendship is so much more than being there to lean a shoulder it's about being there through thick and thin. Really it should be close to marriage vows, in sickness, health, richer or poorer until death we do part. That is what friendship should mean. In Senia and Miina case that is just what it means. Both are willing to give up so much to not only support but be there for each other. If it's money, a shoulder, place to live, helping out the family so be it. There are not many friends who would stick out their necks for you even if it means being sent out of the country.

Until you read this book you can't comprehend not only what these girls have to live through but what true friendship means. The character in this book are strong women who had a hard life. The author makes you feel their pain, anger, love, support I doubt you can read this book and walk away not feeling anything.

I would recommend this book to everyone, it doesn't matter what type of books you like you will totally love this book. It is nice to have a book that touches ones heart without a lot of action, sex, thrills (don't let it full you, well worth the read) that you will not be able to put down. Liz Grace you have touched more then my heart, but my soul.

NayNay says

Senia Loato's life has been a disappointment, and is certain she can put the past behind her. She is offered a job in Germany as an au pair, taking care of three boys. This is were she meets her friend Miina, another African au pair. When Miina finds herself in a situation, Senia stands by her friend. But doing so Senia risks a lot, her place in Germany and her handsome man Roman. Eventually Senia is forced to face the past she ran from, and finds the truth of her history.

I enjoyed HONEYSUCKLE AND JASMINE, author Liz Grace Davis brings her character, scene and settings to life. In a few placed words she brings her readers to another place and time. I found myself easily absorbed in the story. I loved Senia, her courage and human spirit made this an enduring novel.

When I read CHOCOLATE AFTERTASTE and TANGI'S TEARDROP'S by this author I knew I wanted to read HONEYSUCKLE AND JASMINE, and I was not disappointed. This was a fast paced read, with a wonderful main character and an entertaining storyline. I would highly recommend this book.

I received this ARC from Liz Grace Davis for an honest review. Thank-you Mrs.Davis for thinking of me and I look forward to your next novel.

Zoe Jussel says

Sweet little read but I wouldn't go over the moon recommending it for something pithy and intellectually stimulating. Love story not very believable and sort of the cinderella-ish aspect. Still, the two main characters engendered sympathy.

Laura Reading says

The book's blurb and other reviews will tell you what this book is about.
I want to tell you how this book made me feel.

The general theme is about overcoming obstacles, and dealing with the path life pushes you down. It is about nontraditional love - love of friends, and people who come into your life, sometimes when you least expect them or in ways you could never imagine.

This is a story unlike any other I have ever read.

Liz Davis's talent with putting words together makes you understand the story and feel the emotions the characters are experiencing.

I have never lived anywhere one must show papers to prove they belong, to get permits to be allowed to act and experience what I have always taken for granted. But I have a friend who is as devoted and loyal and would go to the lengths for me that these women go to for each other.

Writing this makes me want to pick up a phone and call her.

The characters in this story are strong in the beginning, and still we see them grow. We experience their setbacks and wonder what we would do in their situation. When true complications and disaster strike, even though foreshadowed, I wanted to be able to help in some way.

This kind of relationship needs to be supported and celebrated and appreciated.

I will recommend this book to friends who read all genres.

There is no graphic sex, no paranormal activity, no blood and guts action and yet I know readers of those types of books will not find their time wasted by reading this story.

I was given this book in exchange for an honest review.

I know I have discovered a favorite author.

Sheila says

Liz Grace Davis' novel *Honeysuckle and Jasmine* tells the story of two African women trying to make lives for themselves in Germany. The characters are fascinating; one woman struggling with hurts of the past while the other suffers in the present, one stronger in action while the other is stronger in intent, and both facing problems not of their own devises. The plot is convincing and powerful. And the insights into the plight of immigrants, legal or otherwise, are intensely relevant the world over.

It takes a special sort of bravery to leave a world behind. While Senia, the narrator, may feel she's run away from her troubles, or even been rescued, it's her own strength which will sustain her. And Miina shows a constant desire to help others, suddenly thwarted when she needs help herself. The girls' bravery leads them into actions that might seem scary on the outside—from harboring a fugitive to going on a dating show—but their constancy makes sense in the light of risks already taken. Readers are quickly drawn into the two girls' circle of friendship, shared experiences, and hope for the future.

Nicely told in a convincing mix of first and third person narration, the story build an image of German town life, people both generous and cruel, unintended harm, and unencumbered joy. The longing to feel normal might be greater for an immigrant, or a wounded woman, but it's an emotion most of us can relate to, and the author draws it well. An underlying love story builds hope on top of the lingering effects of abuse, and the two women's laughter truly is the best medicine.

This story could be downbeat and depressing, but instead it's a delight, a revelation, and a joy, with wonderful messages of hope hidden between the lines. It's highly recommended.

Disclosure: I was given a free copy by the author who knew I'd enjoyed *Tangi's Teardrops*.

