



Holiday Illusion

Lynette Eason

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A timeless story of Christmas suspense by bestselling author Lynette Eason

To save a sick, orphaned boy, Anna Freeman must risk her own life. Little Paulo desperately needs a new heart. It's his only Christmas wish—well, that and building his first snowman. For the surgery, Anna must take him to a hospital in the city she once called home. A place she fled in fear years ago. Which means telling Dr. Lucas Bennett that the woman he's known all this time as a caring orphanage worker is really someone else. Someone with a very frightening past. And that the danger stalking all of them won't take Christmas Day off.

Book 3 in the Refuge from Danger series. Originally published in 2008.

Holiday Illusion Details

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From Reader Review Holiday Illusion for online ebook

Judy says

This book has so many different facets.

It starts out in Brazil with Anna at an orphanage and Lucas is a doctor. They both fly back with Paulo, an orphan who needs a heart transplant.

Anna is running from her past as an FBI agent. They had put away a man on tax evasion but she knows that he also committed murder. When she receives a threat, she assumes the man is about to get out of jail.

Lucas is returning to a father he has an estranged relationship with as he feels his brothers death was his fault and that his father blames him as well.

Love, medical issues, suspense, murder...this book has it all!

Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says

-DNF @ 71pages-

Wanted to like this one since I've enjoyed others by the author, but lots of things were revealed quickly which made it feel rush. I really liked the idea of this book, but it just didn't work out for me. I tried liking Anna, but she just seemed a bit off and naive.

-Content up to what I read:

Spiritual Content- 2 Peter 1:3-4 at the beginning; A few Scriptures are quoted, read, & remembered; Prayers; Talks about God, believing, & sin; 'H's are capital when referring to God; Anna has a faith, but Lucas believes you can only depend on yourself and is a bit bitter; Mentions of God & believing; Mentions of prayers & praying; Mentions of Bibles & Bible reading; Mentions of churches & church going; Mentions of faiths; A few mentions of those & events in the Bible; A few mentions of getting religion; A couple mentions of praising God; A couple mentions of a preacher; A couple mentions of blessings & being blessed; A couple mentions of a mission trip; A mention of a miracle; *Note: Mentions of an evil person; A couple mentions of luck.

Negative Content- Minor cussing including: 1 'idiot', 1 'stupid'; Some Sarcasm & Eye rolling; Being threatened & pain (up to semi-detailed); A car accident, pain, injuries, & blood/bleeding (semi-detailed); Many mentions of a killer, seeing a murder, blood/bleeding, a sting operation, & being shot (barely-above-not-detailed); Mentions of almost being killed, murders, & deaths; Mentions of crimes, criminals, crime families, & jails; Mentions of being ran off the road & injuries (barely-above-not-detailed); Mentions of gunfire, being shot, & pain (up to semi-detailed); Mentions of a fire & death; Mentions of nightmares; A few mentions of gun running & transporting illegal aliens; A couple mentions of smoking & pipes; A couple mentions of piercings; *Note: A few mentions of & going to Starbucks; A few mentions of car brands.

Sexual Content- 1 fingers-to-lips touch; Touches & Nearness (up to semi-detailed); Noticing; A couple mentions of blushes; A couple mentions of jealousy;

*Note: *Spoiler* (view spoiler) *End of Spoiler*; A mention of a teen girl showing her stomach.

Lonnie says

Out of all of Lynette's books, I think this is my favorite. I laughed, I cried, and I was surprised at a twist in the end (which doesn't happen too often, Harlen Coben is usually the only one that can surprise me!)

Jan says

This was a good one! I loved the twist at the end. I great Sunday read. I would really recommend this one! Doctor on a mission for not only a child that needs him, but his friend and his family! A great story about forgiveness, redemption, and coming home.

Wendy Sparkes says

Anna Freeman loves her job as manager at the Amazon hospital and orphanage. What no one knows is that she is a former FBI Agent who fled to Brazil when the person she put in jail tries to get his revenge. She is happy here and doesn't want to return, but little Paulo needs a heart transplant and has been moved to #2 on the waiting list. Dr. Lucas Bennett wants her to accompany them back home.

Dr. Lucas Bennett has his own secrets, and reasons for coming to Brazil too. In returning home for a while, he's hoping that he can have forgiveness from his father. That and spending more time with Anna, his best friend who he hopes will become something more.

All Paulo wants for Christmas is a new heart...Oh, and to build a snowman. All Anna wants is to finally find the evidence she knows is in that house so she can put away Shawn de Chastelain, and the terror stalking her, for good. All Lucas wants is for the 3 of them to be a family, and will do anything to protect Anna from the danger that seems to be following her at every turn.

I loved this very fast paced, action filled story set during the Christmas season. Although 2 books precede this one and you actually get to meet and know Anna and Lucas in both of them, you don't need to have read them before this one.

#1

#2

Dorel says

This 3rd book's story line was okay. I liked the Christian parts of this story. I liked Lucas's character. My heart broke for Lucas. I liked Anna's character. I liked the scenes with Anna & Paulo. I loved ❤ Paulo's character. I thought Paulo was adorable. The ending was okay.

Susan Vance says

4.5 Stars

Amazon Adventure, Book 3

Michelle says

Amazon Adventures

Book 3

Lucas, introduced in book 2, has to get his young patient to North Carolina to see a doctor who can give him a new heart. Lucas asks orphanage worker, Anna, to accompany him. But this trip is a lot more than getting a boy a new heart. This story is about Lucas and Anna facing their past!

The suspense was nicely woven through the entire book. It was nicely woven along with the romance that kept me turning pages until the very end. I tried to put the book down, but then picked it right back up again wanting to know how it ended. Though I was able to figure out the "who" and kinda guessed the "why," I was still surprised at the final outcome of the story. Very nicely done!

Not only is forgiveness and acceptance strong themes in this book, but you will find a theme of hope that will leave you smiling at the end.

By the way, unlike the first two books, this book can be read on its own since the previous characters/situations are not mentioned.

Charline Bonham says

Anna and Dr Lucas Bennet take Paulo to North Carolina for a heart transplant. It just happens to be near where they both lived before. Anna was running the orphanage where Paulo was staying. Who is trying to kill Anna or are they after Anna? A lot of intrigue and twists and secrets to figure out.

MARYANN MATHER says

Surprise what a book.

Lots of surprises In The book.. who would of thought you're cousin wanted you dead.. And the love of a fat her can be changed with 3 little words I love you.

Glynis says

I'm in a mood right now for light reads with an inspirational message and this one hit the spot. There's a handsome doctor, a sick little boy and a lot of action. I loved it.

Kim says

This was a good book to read and I enjoyed it very much.

Margaret Chind says

As a person who has a healthy obsession with Alias (the former TV show) and spy action romance dramas in general, this was a fabulous read for me to add to my shelves. I highly recommend it. I could easily compare it to reading Jill Elizabeth Nelson's spy action as well.

This is book #3 and I have not read the first two, and I did not feel like I was missing anything. I do not know what the first two are about, but you better believe after this one that I plan to go back and read those as well as look for other titles from Lynette Eason to come.

Anna and Lucas both have an individual past that they would prefer to leave behind them. The problem is to move further in their relationship they must come clean with their secrets. Another problem is that for neither of them is the past really willing to let go itself.

There are so many things in life that we see that sometimes we miss the important parts. This is a great story about realizing the big picture and going the right way in life according to God's ultimate plan while noticing that many illusions can and will attempt to lead you astray.

I personally love it, and want more. Right now!

Kay says

4 Stars! ~ Anna's a former FBI agent who goes into hiding at a Brazilian orphanage when an undercover assignment leads to a gunshot to the abdomen leaving her barren. Lucas is an American doctor who left his North Carolina home after his brother's violent death, that he blames himself for. Lucas and Anna have worked together for three years becoming friends, both keeping their attraction to the other at bay. When Lucas asks Anna to accompany nine year old Paulo to America for a heart transplant, Anna agrees reluctantly. The hospital donating their services is in the same North Carolina city where Anna had been shot and returning there, Anna worries she'll be in danger. Lucas doesn't know about Anna's past with the FBI, but then he hasn't confided his past either and the reason he left his home. When their lives are put at risk almost as soon as they arrive, Anna is sure someone in the FBI leaked that she was back. After several attempts on her life, Anna is determined to find the evidence to nail the mob boss behind it all. Lucas, opening his heart to Anna, needs to protect her even when she insists he stay clear for his own sake.

Great twist on the who-dunnit! This is a great action packed suspense that kept me turning the pages. As Anna and Lucas face the dangers, they become closer. But Anna is torn, she see Lucas as the man she wants to spend her life with but is afraid he'll come to resent her because she can't give him his own children. Ms. Eason had me guessing to who the assassin is, great twist! I'm looking forward to reading more of Ms. Eason's romantic suspense stories

Cathy Daniel says

In true Lynette Eason fashion, there are plenty of twists and turns and surprises! I loved the ending! Super sweet!!
