



# Something Wonderful

*Judith McNaught*

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## Something Wonderful Judith McNaught

Bestselling author Judith McNaught masterfully portrays a remarkable heroine, and an unforgettable passion, in this powerfully moving love story -- one of her most beloved novels of all time!

The tempestuous marriage of Alexandra Lawrence, an innocent country girl, and Jordan Townsende, the rich and powerful Duke of Hawthorne, is about to face its ultimate test of tender loyalty. Swept into the endlessly fascinating world of London society, free-spirited Alexandra becomes ensnared in a tangled web of jealousy and revenge, stormy pride and overwhelming passion. But behind her husband's cold, arrogant mask, there lives a tender, vital, sensual man...the man Alexandra married. Now, she will fight for his very life...and the rapturous bond they alone can share.

## Something Wonderful Details

Date : Published January 1st 1991 by Pocket Books (first published 1988)

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Author : Judith McNaught

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Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Historical Fiction, Regency, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Something Wonderful for online ebook

Sophie ♥ says

The memorable parts ~

*"You lost the fish!"*

*"That was not a fish," Jordan retorted, looking up at her. "That was a whale with large teeth."*

*"Only because it got away," she retorted, laughing.*

*Her laughter was as infectious as her enthusiasm, and Jordan couldn't stop himself from grinning even though he tried to sound stern. "Kindly stop belittling my whale and let's open those baskets. I'm starved."*

*...Goaded by her insinuation that he possessed no imagination, Jordan narrowed his eyes and stared hard—and then he finally discerned a shape he recognized. Off in the sky, on the right, there was a cloud that looked remarkably like, exactly like—breasts! No sooner did he recognize the shape than Alexandra excitedly asked, "What do you see?" and Jordan's whole body shook with silent laughter.*

*...Despair wrapped around his heart, suffocating him, and tears stung his eyes. Gathering her limp body into his arms, Jordan laid his cheek against hers, his massive shoulders racked with sobs. "Oh, Alex," he wept, rocking her in his arms like a baby, "how will I go on living without you? Take me with you," he whispered. "I want to go with you..." And then he felt something—a whispered word against his cheek.*

*...He stopped and cleared his throat as if it was clogged. "If you ever need more," he began again, his voice rough with emotion, "you have only to tell me. Anything I have will always be yours."*

*...Biting her lip to stop her chin from quivering, Alexandra raised her eyes to his. "I think," she whispered, trying to smile, "I shall wear the ruby on Queen's Race day, so that when I tie my ribbon on your sleeve—"*

*With a groan, Jordan pulled her into his arms.*

*"Now that you've said all those other things," she whispered when he finally lifted his lips from hers several minutes later, "do you think you could possibly say 'I love you'? I've been waiting to hear that since you began and—"*

*"I love you," he said fiercely. "I love you," he whispered softly, burying his face in her hair. "I love you," he groaned, kissing her lips. "I love you, I love you, I love you..."*

This book is the moon, the sun and the stars. Judith McNaught threw so many surprises and wonderful moments at me in a way that only she can. Alex was the most lovely and naive heroine ever. Her innocence and youthfulness had me feeling very protectful of her even when she grew up and lost most of her child-like loveliness. She's one of those heroines who I immediately fell in love with. There was never a moment where I got annoyed or irritated by her and it was really a joy to see the world from her eyes.

Jordan is the typical Judith McNaught hero. Hard and unemotional on the outside but as sweet and soft as candy floss on the inside and one hundred percent lovable. We see the soft side of Jordan a lot when he is with Alex and she is the one that shows him the beauty in the world. As cheesy as that sounds right now, it is terribly romantic in the book. As small a detail as it is, I love how significant the title of each Judith McNaught book is.

There's actually quite a bit of drama and suspense throughout this novel - a characteristic of most of Judith's books. I'm usually not a big fan of murder plots and dramatic disappearances but in this book everything worked so well together. The drama was mostly kept on the sidelines but was very crucial in building the tension, keeping me captivated and making everything so wonderfully satisfying in the end.

\*Sigh of contentment\*

Now to finish this review I have a quick letter for Ms McNaught.

Dearest Judith McNaught,

I am breathing for the day you release another historical romance for they are truly the most wonderful things ever. Sometimes I wonder why you had to switch to contemporary romance and crime writing when it is obvious your historical romances are the jewels of your crown (except for *Paradise and Perfect*, of course). Every novel is like something precious that has fallen straight from heaven. Sadly it has been more than ten years since you last released a historical romance, but I am still praying for the day you decide to release another.

Until then,

Sophie.

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### **Brandi says**

I adored Jordan Townsend and Alexandra Lawrence. *Something Wonderful* was a perfect blend of angst and romance. It is truly a beautiful love story. I loved it!

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### **Mo says**

Re-read for me. **I.LOVED.IT.** Every single bit of it ... OMG, seriously, this books is **P.E.R.F.E.C.T.I.O.N!!**

That ending ... and Epilogue!

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ORIGINAL REVIEW BELOW.

**"I'm glad," she said softly. "I wouldn't want you to be hurt."**

I don't want to say too much about this one as you are better off just reading it blind.

I loved it.

**“A lie is an affront to the soul, as well as an insult to the intelligence of the person to whom one lies.”**

A lot of my friends do not read Historicals. Their loss is all I can say.

Girls, there are sexy scenes in Historicals too....

**“What are you looking at?” Jordan demanded finally, watching her.**

**"A dragon." When he looked bewildered she lifted her arm and pointed to the sky in the southeast. "Right there—that cloud—what do you see when you look at it?"**

**"A fat cloud."**

**Alexandra rolled her eyes at him. "What else do you see?"**

**He was quiet for a moment studying the sky. "Five more fat clouds and three thin ones.”**

There is mistrust, misunderstanding, dickhead hero, friendships, falling outs.

**“It is my custom to have sherry in the drawing room at eight-thirty and supper at nine. In future, please join me here promptly at eight-thirty, Alexandra.”**

**Fire ignited in Alexandra's eyes, but she managed to keep her voice level. "You've already told me where I may sleep, where I may go, who must accompany me, and when I must eat. Would you care to instruct me as to when I may breathe?"**

Eventhough the ould biddy annoyed me in the beginning I liked her in the end.

And if you guys have not watched NORTH and SOUTH, think it might be a BBC adaptation of Elizabeth Gaskell's novel, go and watch it. Richard ARMITAGE as John Thorntom. Le Sigh.

**She was a gentle dreamer. He was a hard realist.**

**She was, in fact, such a dreamer that she actually believed “something wonderful” was going to happen – which wasn’t that surprising since she also believed wet dirt in the springtime smelled like perfume ...**

**”Are you patronizing me?”**

**“I love you, he thought with each thrust of his body; I love you, his heart shouted with each thunderous beat; I love you, his soul cried out as Alexandra's spasms clenched him tightly. I love you. The words exploded in his being as he drove into her one last time and poured his life, his future, and all the disillusionment of his past into her tender keeping.”**

**“And when it was over, he held her in his arms, filled with a joy that was almost past bearing as he gazed at the white clouds floating in the powder blue sky. All of them had shapes and meaning to him now. All his life had shape and meaning to him now.”**

This author is wonderful. I can “feel” her writing.

**“Alexandra was goodness and gentleness and trust. And love. She was flowers blooming on the hillsides and laughter floating through the halls.”**

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## **Lana ❄️Dirty Girl Romance❄️ says**

Loved loved LOVED this!!!!

Though I'm extremely disappointed with the publisher for the ebook version being RIDDLED with errors; missing punctuation points, typos, etc. For the price point of the book, the amount of errors is completely unacceptable.

However, I've just happily purchased the paperback version because I absolutely adored the story.

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## **Blair says**

This book is **SOMETHING WONDERFUL**

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## **Jana says**

When I read Judith McNaught I feel like I'm transferred to some other dimension. So you have this huge 500 pages long book with pitiful title and a truly awful cover and yet I very much think about when it's the right time to start reading it, because her books consummate my time completely. I sincerely cannot think about anything else. It's drastic and extreme and I tell myself that during my weekends when I have enough time to go for a walk or for a swim because the sea is still very warm or to start playing tennis for fuck's sake, cause just behind my building are tennis courts, I need to do something more proactive and physical I end up carrying this book to toilet, hating myself that I can't stop myself from reading it slower. It's mind numbing and I feel very stiffened and my muscles are atrophying.

And then I think how come she is not more popular, because she is brilliant. And I'm hooked. It's the same as with Pat Conroy. I've been delaying reading his 'The prince of tides' for years. Every time I see it in the library I say next month, or next year, and I know that when I get my hands on that book, I won't leave my flat for days because Conroy's geniusness makes my skin ache. I have a friend who said the same thing about Conroy, who as well had been studying in Citadel just like Conroy and he's very proud of his military ring, but even he who is ruthless when we play social games like Pictionary because the way his mind works is utterly strange because his instincts and creativity are immaculate and eyes widening, this friend of mine says that when he reads Conroy he feels violated but in a good way. He can take him in small doses. I can take Conroy in small doses. Just as Marilynne Robinson and William Trevor and Flannery O'Connor and Raymond Carver. Because they are all – too much. They are too good, but too sad and too realistic. I adore each one of them and I'll read them repeatedly.

McNaught isn't making the same effect on me, but it's very close in a different way. She makes me fall in love with reading. Again and again. I adore her characters and these perpetual and fatigued games they play with each other. She writes about romance troubles and rakes and dukes and scoundrels and virgins and tons and castles and field fighting and society rules and naive girls and bad steel gray eyed men and all these books they could have been very flat and with flaws and books for spinsters with cats, and there you would have a problem if you looked at them like this, but truth to be said Judith McNaught writes utterly

spectacular stories which make me scream with laughter and enjoy them immensely.

This is why I'll never write an insincere review because you can say that 500 pages of romance book is easy to write because you obviously just need rakes and dukes and scoundrels and virgins and tons and castles and field fighting and society rules and naïve girls and bad steel gray eyed men, but to melt all of the written into something wonderful really is Something Wonderful.

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### ♥Sharon♥ says

Why oh why have I not read more historical romance novels. Being only my second HR Something Wonderful was just that, something wonderful.

This story had me captivated right from the beginning. I quickly found myself submerged into the world of the characters and experiencing something different.

I truly loved Jordan and Alexandra's story. I guess you could say it was love at first sight for Alexandra. It may have been because she was naïve but I would like to believe it was because her heart was pure. Jordan was a bit jaded and cold hearted. His use for women was simple. It was solely for a physical need. He knew no other way.

***"I love life, even when bad things happen to me. I can't stop loving it. Every season of the year comes with a promise that something wonderful is going to happen to me someday." ~ Alexandra***

As these two worlds collide we watch Alexandra blossom and Jordan soften. As Alexandra struggles to fit into Jordan's world and meet his demands Jordan begins to question all he has been taught in regards to feelings and emotions. Just when their lives become suitable tragedy strikes and Alexandra is left devastated and trying to cope.

Time passes and things change...people change. But what becomes apparent to both Alexandra and Jordan is the beauty each of them gives to the other. But as Jordan is dealing with something unbeknownst to Alexandra, misunderstandings happen which leads to.....well you have to read the book to find out. :) But...

Pain is shared and special moments are made. There is happiness and heartache. There is lust, desire and tenderness.

I'll be putting this on my bookshelf for now but I will certainly pull it out again and reread some of the chapters I loved the most. There was so many things I enjoyed. The way the book is written your able to form these beautiful pictures in your head. Maybe it is where Jordan and Alexandra share a picnic or the place they go fishing and make love on the hill side, or when they go to a Ball. Or all the beautiful flowers. I also enjoyed all the side characters and what they added to the story. They brought humor and some cynicism which rounded things out.

***"Now that you've said all those other things," she whispered when he finally lifted his lips from hers***



*several minutes later, "do you think you could possibly say 'I love you'? I've been waiting to hear that since you began and—"*

*"I love you," he said fiercely. "I love you," he whispered softly, burying his face in her hair. I love you..." ~ Jordan*

How did I stumble upon this book you might wonder? It really was only one review that had me one-clicking. Well you can't download this to your kindle but there is something special about sitting down with an old fashion bounded book. Anyways one of my GR friends Mo posted a beautiful review which you can find here.... <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...> Do yourself a favor read her review too!

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## **Ingela says**

*Written December 10, 2014*

**4.6 Stars - Old quality in the very best romantic HR style. - A sparkling sweet and gripping emotional fairy tale**

*Something Wonderful* is one of Judith McNaught's older, so beloved, grand historical romances. This one, her first *#1 New York Times bestseller*, is from 1988. ~ Loved and high rated by all my HR reading GR friends.

*"Regarded as one of the most beloved writers of all time in popular fiction, Judith McNaught is the author of thirteen novels with more than 30 million copies in print"*

**I has —slowly with a few chapters each day—** listening to this 16 hours audio (CD) edition (from 1993). Very well narrated by Jill Ferris.

I read some parts as well and I just loved *Something Wonderful* from the first page to the last. **Another WOW romance!**

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*England 1815*

**Alexandra Lawrence, an innocent soon to be 18 years old country girl**, finds her forced, after unfortunate mistake and an inn room, to marry the older and very powerful Duke.

**Jordan Addison Matthew Townsende, the 12th Duke of Hawthorne**, Marquess of Landsdowne, Earl of Marlow, Baron of Richfield (a lot of names..), a great looking man, is a blase nobleman with a mistress who feels pity for this young still innocent childlike, but so cheerful, girl.

“Reformed rakes often make the best husbands”

The dukes does his duty, and soon he has a young maiden wife in young Alexandra. ~ A wife without a very fine noble birth or ancestry but with an intellectual and good literary education from her beloved grandfather. A shimmering pearl that never faced the dangers of a big city or the risks involved in meetings with the London society.

“I love life, even when bad things happen to me. I can't stop loving it. Every season of the year comes with a promise that something wonderful is going to happen to me someday.”

\*\*\*\*\*

There are next to 15.000 GR members who's marked this as read. Almost 500 of them left a review as well. I don't think another long (arguing, thought out and maybe also splendid interesting.. \*smiling\* ) review will make any difference or pushing more romance readers to this book.

*Short and sweet:*

**I feel like most readers: 'Magical reading!!'.**

This writer is a stunning master writer of this HR genre. Do you plan to only read one single historical m/f romance in the coming year: Please, select one written by Judith McNaught, you can not but be happy and satisfied. — Grand and great, and so neat and well told. I loved it all. There will be more JMN romances in my "Read" shelf. Many many more hopefully.

**I LIKE - OF COURSE, who doesn't?**

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**Danielle says**

**“What is it you think is going to happen?”**

**Alexandra shivered deliciously. “Something wonderful.”**

There is always something about historical romance that can get me out of a book slump. There's just something about them that pulls on my heart strings with their one of a kind love stories. And Something Wonderful didn't disappoint.

When seventeen-year-old Alex, daughter of a lord and a commoner, saves Jordan, the Duke of Hawthorne from some highwaymen, well that's when something wonderful begins. It isn't all flowers and rainbows—that's what I love about Judith McNaught's novels. It's a rollercoaster of emotions.

Jordan is a rake, manwhore, player—call him what you want. He **does not** deserve Alex. She has “life is wonderful” goggles over her eyes; is kind, selfless, so trusting, and so naïve. She thinks of Jordan as a god, when he's nothing but a libertine.

I had a smile on my face the entire beginning of *Something Wonderful*. After certain circumstances arise, Jordan and Alex are forced into a marriage. Neither wants it. But Alex makes it known that she will accept it. And her young heart immediately falls for Jordan. God, I was cringing at her naivety and declarations of love, for only Jordan to say "Thank you." But it was also so endearing to me. It showed my black heart how selfless and true young love can be. And hers was.

When Jordan disappears and is declared dead, Alex is broken. But it was her husband's wish that she be accepted into society, and so she worked hard to become what he wanted. At first, she was so naïve, and so in love with Jordan that she made a fool of herself, because she didn't know the kind of man he was. She was unknowingly complimenting his mistresses' looks, and becoming the laugh of the ton. Until she changes it all around and realizes how Jordan had played her, and who he really was.

When Jordan returns, it's to find Alex about to marry his cousin. The only reason he got through the torture he'd been through, was thoughts of getting back to her. He realized she was it for him, and he wanted a life with her. A five star read for me if I didn't find some parts a bit slow. But still a very enjoyable one, nonetheless.

**Something Wonderful takes us on a journey of jealousy, betrayal, lust and love.** Another great one by Judith McNaught, and I'd absolutely recommend to lovers of historical romance.

**"Something wonderful *had* happened."**

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✿♥~m49913~♥✿ says

*"Listen to me," Jordan begged urgently, somehow convinced that she would stay alive if she understood how much she meant to him. "Listen to what my life was like before you hurtled into it wearing that suit of armor— Life was empty. Colorless. And then you happened to me, and suddenly I felt feelings I never believed existed, and I saw things I'd never seen before. You don't believe that, do you, darling? But it's true, and I can prove it." His deep voice ragged with unshed tears, Jordan recited his proof: "The flowers in the meadow are blue," he told her brokenly. "The ones by the stream are white. And on the arch, by the arbor, the roses are red."*

*Lifting her hand to his face, he rubbed his cheek against it. "And that's not all I noticed. I noticed that the clearing by the pavilion—the one where my plaque is—looks like the very same one where we had our duel a year ago. Oh, and darling, there's something else I have to tell you: I love you, Alexandra."*

*Tears choked his voice and made it a tormented whisper. "I love you, and if you die I'll never be able to tell you that."*

These sentence make me cry out louder....

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## **Maeve says**

I read almost all of Judith McNaught's novels but "Something Wonderful" is definitely my favorite. I've read this book for, like, 10 times and every time I read it, it always feels like it's my first time. I totally fell in love with the story and the characters.

There's this one scene when Alexandra got shot and Jordan thought she would die, the words Jordan uttered just give me pinches in my heart every time. I'm not a cry-baby but I was picturing this scene in my head, and I felt a lump in my throat. You could really feel the love Jordan had for Alexandra.

I strongly recommend this book. This is totally a must-read! :)

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## **Karéz says**

**Fantastic book!. I even loved it more with my re-read!. The characters are to die for. And it's been way to long that I loved,admired the heroine for her way of thinking. How she's innocent,and potent at the same time. As for the writing, let's just say McNaught is remarkable with her words. Truly captivating.....**

*Thank you for the wonderful buddy read my dear Supreet.. I had blast. Muah!*

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## **Geri Reads says**

Ahhhhhh! Loved this one. This was definitely better than Once and Always. I liked Alex better and Jordan was definitely more romantic than Jason. As per usual, Alexandra is the typical McNaught special snowflake heroine. I'm not complaining though because I personally liked her character. Jordan...sigh...he's definitely a typical emotionally scarred McNaught hero but he isn't cruel or abusive.

Loved the humor, the chemistry between the main characters and the secondary characters. Definitely worth the re-read.

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## **Beth says**

AAAGGGGGHHH. I just never learn. Re-reading these books has been like re-reading "The Catcher in the Rye": they're just not the same after adolescence. Hero mistakes ugly duckling for a boy (with the requisite "he was annoyed with himself for his strange attraction to the young male. Had he become so jaded that he was turning to boys?" moment, because, as we all know, being a "rake" leads to pedophilia.) and has to marry her. He gets knocked on the head and disappears, everyone thinks he's dead, etc. Everyone falls in love with the heroine (of course) and when our hero returns, he has to fight his lust for her. Why? Because the plot says so. He's mad because she was about to get remarried when he came back. Because she was supposed to die of grief when he went missing. Or enter a convent. Or something. At any rate, he finally accepts her love and they go on to make tons of babies. The end.

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## Karen says

[image error]

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## Suzanne says

Recommended by a friend, I think these stories are funny. Meandering and lacking any real oomph, it is amusing to read about 18th century life. I'm not a feminist, so the carry on doesn't bother me, but these stories are extremely light. I was a little bored throughout, and I have to say the heroine (is that what they are called in this genre?!) is always childlike at first, and always blooms beautifully by the end! The Duke, endlessly handsome and oh so gruff. Even his handsomeness didn't really want me to keep reading. A light hearted read, which prompted me to utilise my underused Kindle. Also, the heroine's mother disappeared, never to make a comeback. Odd!

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## Shari Kay says

This. Was. *Wonderful*.

I read this for the first time over a decade ago, and I have to say I feel like a fangirl right now. *Squee* and all. I actually jumped up and cheered when something was revealed at the end! I had thought I remembered correctly about that certain something...but when I was almost to page 400 and it still hadn't happened...I began to doubt myself and can't tell you how relieved I was that my memory didn't completely fail me. Saved my 5 ★ review!

Dang McNaught knows her stuff. She gives you pieces of her characters past/present lives that show so well why they are, who they are. You know what makes them tick.

Jordan believes women are conniving and faithless creatures, (with good reason) only fit for a roll between the sheets. And boy has this boy rolled. He's had mistresses galore and fought duels over married women he's dallied with and suffers not a speck of remorse about any of it. He is a cad. He is gorgeous and rich and a Duke to boot. But he has no joy in his life, never really has, until Alex crashes into it.

Alex is guileless, extremely naïve, and loves life to the fullest. No matter what burdens and disappointments come along with it, she refuses to believe that 'something wonderful' isn't right around the corner.

I won't rehash the plot, except to say that due to *circumstances*, Jordan feels compelled to marry Alex and the child/woman falls madly in love with the handsome Duke to the point of hero-worship. He can do no wrong in her eyes and woe be to anyone who suggests otherwise. But eventually she finds out in a most cruel way that he is not what she believes him to be...and then...she becomes a force to be reckoned with.

I loved Alexandra. I loved her spirit. I didn't think her 'innocence' was too unbelievable given the circumstances of her upbringing...I found her naivety quite amusing.

Though the side characters were well developed ( except perhaps for the villains) all I wanted to read about was the romance between Jordan and Alex. McNaught's men are always tough nuts to crack...but they secretly want to have their hearts opened by the perfect heroine. They are little boys crying out to be loved. We get to see Jordan's walls crack throughout the book. And is it freaking phenomenal when they finally fall down completely. JM has written the perfect reformed rake romance and I loved it.

What else can I say? (view spoiler)

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## **Esther says**

This was incredible. What can I say but Judith McNaught at her finest.

Quick review.

We have sweet, smart, strong and big hearted heroine, Alexandra who rescues the hero from some bandits one night. She's a seventeen year old young women/girl who's returning from a birthday party dressed in her costume as a knight (yep armor and all). She comes upon our hero, Jordan being held at gun point about to be shot. She accidentally kills the assailant but saves Jordan. Circumstances develop that have the two in a precarious situation and because of the perception our hero needs to save our heroines reputation and so he needs/forced to marry her. He first thought Alexandra was a boy but later on realized that she is this young girl at the cusp of womanhood. He is enchanted with Alexandra and her openness, sweetness, innocences and especially most especially her sharp and intelligent mind. Jordan feels it's his duty to save her reputation and marriage is the only answer, plus he owes her his life as she saved him.

The first half of the book is the setup of their first meeting and the beginning of their marriage. Alexandra's innocence and adoration for Jordan is obvious and a little awkward to behold at times, but yet so endearing and sweet. She's got a wonderful heart that is tender and she see's the good in people and situations. Our heroine started taking care of her Mother (who is bitter from her husbands deceit which she learns after his death) and the adorable misfit crew who help around the cottage around the tender age of fourteen. You see at fourteen her wonderful grandfather died, pretty mush raised Alexandra and poured all his love and knowledge into her young life. But now at the age of eighteen (she was days away from her birthday when she rescued the hero at seventeen) she is about to marry and has hope that her marriage could be a happy one. Jordan is an aristocrat, handsome, wealthy, cold/unfeeling and a rake. We get a small glimpse of his young life in the beginning of the book. We see what his dispicable parents are like and their terrible behavior. Also you get a little background of what his family life is about and you kind understand why he becomes the man he does. But something about Alexandra touches him like no other and he begins to feel things he's never felt before.

But days into their marriage Alexandra is told there is a tragic accident and Jordan is dead. But in reality he's been kidnaped and put in prison. What keeps him alive and going is the sweet memories of Alexandra. He's

determined to escape and return to his wife and make their marriage a happy one. We are then given a heart wrenching account of our heroines heartbreak and her transformation into a confident young woman, her thinking is that she would somehow have made Jordan proud if he was alive. Alexandra grew up in the country with her family, but now she will take the ton by storm and be introduced as Jordans widow. We have a time span of about a year of Alexandra grieving, her remake and growth into this beautiful, young, confident, but sweet woman. Jordans grandmother and cousin play significant roles, as well as the misfit crew, in helping and guiding Alexandra. During Alexandra introduction to the ton she begins as this naive adoring wife that raves about her wonderful dead husband. But she learns some heartbreaking things about her husbands past and given some misinformation about why he married her. Jordans cousin offers marriage as a convince and Alexandra accepts.

The second half of their story begins with knowledge that Jordan has escaped from prison, he's rushing to his home and family to learn that his wife and cousin are just about to marry. The scene with Jordan walking down the aisle, stopping midway, folding his arms (I don't know why but the write up of his physical stance just added to the whole scene), announcing to the priest that he objects to the two marrying as the bride is married to him. That scene was so intense and filled with emotion and angst, it gutted me. . It was incredible and so well written, vintage Judith McNaught. Loved it!!! The two embark on a cautious, angst filled journey of rediscovering each other as well as learning the mature and somewhat changed individuals they've become. It's filled with some heart wrenching scenes, so much emotion and heart. Your immersed into all the hurt that each is experiencing, as well as their deep desire for love, for each other, and for their marriage to be a happy one. Their is the mystery of who is trying to kill Jordan thrown in. The writing is excellent, beyond excellent actually. It makes you miss Judith McNaughts world of love and romance. The depth of emotion and feels is intense and will make you cry. The characters growth and development is superior as the story progresses and advances to it's beautiful conclusion. The secondary characters are endearing and a hoot. And best of all the epilogue is heart melting.

I really miss Judith McNaught's writing and so wish she would write some more HR.  
Okay, maybe this review wasn't so quick. :)

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## **Saffron says**

### **A million "Wonderful" Stars!**

*Buddy Re-read with Awesome Karez*

If I had to pick one author in the romance genre, who is my all time favorite, it would be Judith McNaught. I love her writing style. I love her characters. I love her dramatic, old school plots. She is the one who got me hooked on romance and as we all know, we can never forget our first love. Her books are extremely special to me.

This is my third...or maybe fourth time reading this and I still loved the heck out of it. Usually, I refrain from casting heroes in my review. Mostly, because I suck at it and also, because all those fantastic heroes appear so much more appealing in my head than in real life. But for this book, I HAVE TO....So here it is people, My Jordan Townsende, Duke of Hawthorne...

Isn't he wonderful?

Anyway, So far I have been appalled by the books I have read in the past year and the high ratings I gave them. How can I be so stupid as to like some of them?!

Our taste changes and evolves but some things remain the same over the years, at least for me. For me to love and adore a story, I need..

Flawless writing that never gets old.

Amazing, lovable characters.

Sizzling chemistry.

Humor.

Genuine conflict.

Angst mixed in with sweet moments.

Alright, that's all I can think of right now. And this book has every single one of those.

**The story:** Alex (our heroine) rescues Jordan (our hero) and in the process, ruins her reputation. Jordan is forced to marry her and he is extremely unhappy about it. However, Alex falls in love with Jordan and cant wait to start a life with him. But fate has something else in store for them. Jordan disappears and Alex is left grieving for him. Through twists and turns, they meet again and thus begins the process of them falling in love with each other.

I felt bad for Alex. She was such a strong, lovable though frustrating at times, character. Jordan was an asshole in the beginning but, no matter what I couldn't hate him. He was just...perfect. And towards the end he was just so much more than perfect. Just like him...

If you haven't read any of JM's work. I urge you to give her a chance. She is an amazing author and her books never get old. You will laugh, you will cry, you will smile, you will feel the angst. And that's why we read, isn't it? To feel good, bad and more often than not, to feel SOMETHING WONDERFUL

Oh God, I am gonna cry...I just love this book so much...

**A special thanks to wonderful Karez, who read this with me. We should do this more often babe. I loved re-reading this with you <33**

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## **Dina says**

When I finish reading a book, I usually know right away how I'm going to rate it. In this case, I didn't have a clue... Did I love it? Yes. Did I hate it? Also yes. I tossed and turned in bed last night, trying to reach a conclusion, and I woke up this morning still undecided. I'm starting to write this review in hopes of gathering my thoughts and getting a clearer insight into how much I liked (or disliked) this book. This can easily



become a rambling rant with some spoilers somewhere along the way, so I apologize in advance if I step on anyone's toes.

Jordan Townsende, the Duke of Hawthorne, is a cynical, cold and heartless rake who despises all women in general, thanks to the less-than-stellar examples given by his mother while he was growing up and by the countless paramours he's had since he reached adulthood. He just doesn't trust women, period.

Alexandra Lawrence is Jordan's opposite. She's an innocent, optimistic and loving country girl who always tries to see the good in life, even in her most dire circumstances. She's too naïve for her own good, but have no fear because ruthless Jordan will crush that in no time. :(

Jordan and Alexandra should have never met in normal circumstances, but hey, this is Romancelandia. So they meet, he compromises her inadvertently, they're forced into a marriage of convenience and the stage is set for an emotional rollercoaster designed to turn me into a basket case. Big (and Small) Misunderstandings, a Long Separation, deception, suspicion, murder attempts, unexpected allies, surprise villains... I loved it! I hated it! I was a puppet in Ms. McNaught's hands.

Jordan was a hard character to love. If you followed my status updates while I was reading this book, you might have guessed that he kept me on the verge of a nervous breakdown. Over and over again, he threatened to do something hateful to Alex - and sometimes he did. But then, he would go and do something sweet and thoughtful, and I forgave him. I guess the selling point for me was, I *understood* his behavior. Yes, I wanted to smack some sense into him a couple of times, but he was a result of his parents' upbringing. That didn't excuse everything he did, but I just couldn't hate him. There was some good writing there, Ms. McNaught!

As for Alex, she was really the "something wonderful" mentioned in the title of this book. I loved her to bits. She was too good and too sweet to be true in the beginning, but that made her falling "in love" with Jordan so quickly believable. In her naïveté, she worshipped a Jordan that never existed, so she was bound to be sorely disappointed sooner or later. When she finally found out that her "dream man" wasn't real, I was as hurt as she was, even though I already knew what a cad he was. In the end, I think she should have made him grovel and work harder to win her love back, but I guess she just wasn't as petty as I am. :)

Besides Jordan and Alex, several secondary characters helped to keep the story interesting, but the way they popped up and disappeared all of a sudden was a bit jarring. Alex's mother, Alex's uncle, Alex's friend Mary Ellen, Jordan's grandmother, Jordan's aunt, Jordan's cousin Bertie, Jordan's prison inmate... One moment they were there, having their say; the next they were gone, sometimes never to be mentioned again. I understand that secondary characters aren't supposed to be "on stage" all the time - after all, they're not the protagonists of the story - but some of them played key roles and deserved more than to simply "vanish into thin air".

That leads to another "problem" I had with this book: Jordan's imprisonment and alleged death. The man was kidnapped, tortured, beaten and spent 15 months in a French prison, "comes back from the dead" just in time to prevent his "widow" from marrying his cousin, gets angry and all that jazz, and then resumes his life as if he'd been away only for a weekend. Huh? Okay, I guess Jordan's mind was stronger than I'd thought. In his place, I'd be having nightmares for months.

So... Based on what I've written above, you'd think I didn't like this book, right? Well, I did like it. Ms. McNaught knows how to write compelling emotional scenes and she made me care for Jordan and Alex despite (or maybe because of) their "flaws". I was emotionally committed to them, as they made me smile

and cry, sigh with happiness, frown with worry, shout in anger and cheer in joy. No bland emotions there, and I was a mess! The ending was touching and wonderful. It was somewhat abrupt - Jordan could have definitely groveled some more - but even so, it left a smile on my face.

All in all, I can't say this was an *enjoyable* book - I mean, I don't *enjoy* resembling an emotional yo-yo when reading a book, LOL - but it was certainly worth reading. This was only my 3rd book by Ms. McNaught, but I believe I can already say that her books will never be "comfort reads" to me because she sure knows how to push my emotional buttons. For better or worse.

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