



Once Upon A Kiss

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Livvy thought she lost her chance for a Happily Ever After when she dismissed the wish fairy who knocked on her door, so when a prime specimen of masculinity appears on her front lawn one stormy night, she can't quite believe it. Like a prince in distress, he needs her kiss to bring him out of his enchanted sleep.

After a war injury left him paralyzed, Joe Kimball never expected to walk again, but when he regains the use of his legs thanks to his sexy neighbor, he can't argue when she insists the credit belongs to a wish fairy. Nor does he want to. Arguing is the last thing on his mind now that he is a whole man again.

Unfortunately, a few days of hot sex do not a fairy-tale ending make, and as the magic becomes increasingly volatile, Joe and Livvy realize there's much more at stake than just their happiness.

This book is no longer available under this title.

Once Upon A Kiss Details

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From Reader Review Once Upon A Kiss for online ebook

LynnMarie says

Lorien's Review

In the third book of the Be-Wished series, Once Upon a Kiss is a fantastic fairy tale story. It's packed with emotional tension and well-written romantic plot. After sending the wish fairy away, Livvy Hammond thought she would never get her Happily Ever After wish again. But miraculous things happen in the most unexpected ways.

Joe Kimball served overseas in the Army and came back paralyzed in a wheelchair. After settling down next door to Livvy, he's been given a second chance to walk again and find love thanks to his neighbor's kiss. The only condition is the fairy magic has unexpected side effects so things never last.

Beginning with the blurb, this talented author immediately drew me into the lives of these two amazing characters. Kate Willoughby delivers a well-balanced story with a twist and I didn't want it to end. With just the right mixture of romance and sizzling sex scene, this book is an excellent read with a fairy tale ending.

5 Tea Cups!

Book Utopia says

3.5, but I like this author's work more than most so I'm rounding up.

This is the third story in the author's Be-Wished series, but surprisingly enough, can be mostly read alone. However, compared to the first two books, I can't say that I enjoyed it quite as much.

Livvy is a freelance illustrator, the last of a trio of young women who made wishes on vacation a few years earlier to find true love. Her two friends have found theirs, but when Livvy had been offered hers, she'd turned it down as a joke, thus nullifying Davina's commitment to her. Now that she's seen it come true for her friends, she's more open to it, especially with her friends wanting it for her as well. Davina decides to use black market magic to satisfy Livvy's request for a fairy tale ending, but the results end up turning chaotic at best. Most of them are temporary, thank goodness. Like Livvy's walls turning to gingerbread. And her hair growing ten feet over night. But then she discovers her gorgeous new neighbor, the paraplegic Joe Kimball, asleep in a glass coffin in her front yard. She kisses him awake, and after momentary confusion about whether or not he's dreaming, he whoops for joy at being able to use his legs again. There's a catch, though. Every time he leaves Livvy's house, all of his clothes disappear. Which is convenient considering how much sex they are about to have.

My respect for this author is no secret. I love that we seem to generally share the same sense of humor, something I've found surprisingly rare in romantic fiction. While this romantic comedy is much in the same vein as its two predecessors, however, I can't say that I enjoyed it quite as much. It has some fantastic farcical elements, with the various fairy tales enacting themselves in her life, and while I did laugh at some

of them, as soon as the new scenario with Joe was introduced, I found myself more worried than anything else. See, none of the other things that had happened with the wish had lasted. Compound that with the knowledge of how erratic Davina's magic is at the best of times, and I couldn't shake the dread that Joe's legs were going to give out on him at any moment. With that ominous thought always lurking in the back of my mind, I was never able to completely give myself over to the moment and enjoy what was going on between them. I also didn't understand why Livvy wasn't more worried about it, either, which lowered my respect for her as a character. She'd reacted accordingly to all the earlier problems, why not to this one which had so much more at stake?

Joe's disability isn't dwelled on too much, actually. There's a single scene of him in his wheelchair before the glass coffin incident, and then he's so exuberant about being able to walk that any drama is tossed out the window. Some attempts are made later on in the story that generate a little conflict, but it felt a tad too orchestrated by that point, especially considering their lack of a serious reaction earlier in the story.

For the first time, I found myself not amused by some of the humor, too. That's more likely due to the characters and my lack of immersion more than the author's skills, however. The jokes are there, and I laughed or smiled at a good number of them, but not everything is going to tickle my funny bone and sometimes it just felt like these guys were trying too hard. Like Joe's characterization. He's a gorgeous war hero who has a secret geek side, and his excitement about getting to spend a night with Livvy having sex and playing Dark Source (a collectible card game that sounds remarkably like Magic: The Gathering) annoyed me a little as both a tad immature (even if probably accurate in regards to male thinking) and too hard to believe.

Did I enjoy the read? Ultimately, I did. I like the characters, and there's a farcical edge to the whole thing which differentiates it from much that's out there. But it doesn't quite attain the same levels as its predecessors for me. It's more of a sketch than a fully rendered picture, appreciable for its potential and hints of what it could be but ultimately not quite as satisfying.

Tracy says

Sexy and Still Going Strong

If she knew then what she knows now, freelance illustrator Olivia Hammond may not be feeling quite so left behind by her two crazy-in-love friends. That's sort of the bitch about hindsight, though, isn't it? And really, who could blame her for scoffing at the possibility of a wish-granting fairy when Davina first showed up to grant her wish back when her wish bracelet had fallen off. She'd thought the little woman was touched in the head, dipping into the fairy dust or something, not an actual fairy.

In truth, Livvy was resigned to it by now. She missed out. It sucks, but so be it. Her best friends Mariah and Paige, both poster women for Happily Ever After, were of different minds on the subject. When they found out that Livvy had missed her shot, they confronted Davina.

It's not that the romance-loving Davina needs convincing, but she's already on shaky ground with the United Wish Federation (a seemingly perpetual condition). She doesn't have enough of her own magic, she can't use UWF's magic. She wishes she could, but she can't help Livvy.

Though...*technically* there is one other option. It's sometimes a wee bit risky but...it's for a good cause. The best cause. Love.

Famous last words.

Soon Livvy's house is turning into gingerbread, golden eggs are showing up on her property every morning (she's not too upset about that one), and her next door neighbor, an ex-military war veteran who took a bullet in his spine for our country and is now confined to a wheelchair, mysteriously appears - naked and asleep - in a glass coffin in her front yard. Which, coincidentally, is all manner of creepy and more than a little freaky, no matter how good looking he is. Plus he won't wake up until she kisses him.

Getting woken up by the sweet lips of a fine-looking woman is Joe Kimball's idea of a good time. It's been so long he's almost forgotten how much fun a kiss could be. Even one he's, apparently, having in the rain...while he's stretched out in a glass coffin...naked. Uh...okay, well, that's a little psych-eval worthy, for sure. The fact that he can feel the rain on his legs and the cold glass against his skin...and certain parts of his body were giving their own personal salute at the wake up, well...that was a whole other level of *holy-shit*. He was whole again. And naked. And his neighbor obviously wanted a piece of him.

Hell, if he was dreaming, he'd ride that dream...and his neighbor...all the way to the psych ward. If he wasn't, well...he'd blow up that bridge when he gets to it.

As much as it looks like Livvy is finally getting her chance at her own HEA, and as fabulous it is for Joe to be walking again...and...uh...not walking...it's clear that not all is well with the magic Davina used to grant her wish. Too many fairy tale curiosities are popping up and going a little haywire. And if Livvy remembers correctly - however belatedly - not all fairy tales ended happily...at all.

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I am such a rabid fan of this series, it's almost embarrassing. I love Willoughby's writing style, and the creativity and originality of the series premise has just been awesome. It takes a special sort of talent to put forth erotic novellas/short novels with a paranormal/fantasy bent and not only find the right balance between the sex, the romance, and the story, but to execute it well enough to be felt throughout each tale. With this third installment of her *Be-Wished* series, Willoughby once again proves she has such a talent in spades!

The plot of this book was a little meatier than the previous two, and Davina and the UWF fairies had a slightly larger role, facts I consider nothing but awesome. Joe's character had a pretty traumatic history, and while it didn't trapse too far down the road to Angst-ville, some of the insecurities and psychological issues born from his past and his condition were very realistically represented in the book. That was a particularly nice touch.

The fairy-tales-run-amok elements in the story also added a new dimension to the tale. It was considerably more comedic than Joe's issues with his paraplegia, which is a good thing. The humorous elements inherent in a house that is suddenly gingerbread or a clutch of golden eggs hidden in the pantry balanced out the more depressing elements of Joe's recounting of his injury and recovery.

There are so many elements of this story and the series overall that Willoughby does so well. The flawless continuity and seemingly effortless flow of world building and exposition is impressive. Character reaction is at least relatively realistic in the face of some pretty wild and fantastical paradigm shifts. Even Joe's moments of being a jerk, and he does have his moments, are believable.

I can't say I was quite as fond of Livvy and Joe as I was of Paige and Adam or Mariah and Tucker. Not really sure why, but while I liked them well enough as characters, especially Livvy, they didn't thrill me as a couple

quite like the others did. I also didn't feel their romance was quite as emotionally satisfying as those in the previous stories, but that might be nothing more than the lesser connection I felt for them.

The story, though, was more complex, with some legitimate threat coming from Davina's meddling. That thread of external conflict was resolved a little quickly, but its existence added to the depth of the tale. And by now I'm sure I don't need to mention that Willoughby writes some pretty smokin' hot sex scenes that are positively titillating. Yum!

Three touching, emotional, and fabulously sexual erotic novellas/short novels into the *Be-Wished* series, and Willoughby is still going strong. Frankly, I just can't wait to see what she comes up with next.

Disclosure: A copy of this book was provided to me by the author for an honest review. This rating, review, and all included thoughts and comments are my own.

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Reviewed for One Good Book Deserves Another.

Selina says

This was tough for me to get through. The characters are flippant and though reading the other stories might have added context, I just could not get into it.

Lorien Lyn says

A fun read using children's fairy tale story. The book definitely brought out the heartfelt emotions and characters in the story.
