



## Wild Hearts

*Jessica Burkhart*

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**Enjoy *Wild Hearts* and the other standalone titles in Bloomsbury's contemporary If Only romance line centered around an impossible problem: *you always want what you can't have!***

Brie Carter's father's land development business has taken her family all over the world, but as soon as they arrive at their new home in Lost Spring, Wyoming, the town turns out to protest. They don't want a new hotel if the resident mustang population will be displaced or hurt as part of the deal. Then Brie meets Logan, a gorgeous local who has a special connection to the mustangs, and she is immediately drawn to him . . . and the horses. However, with Logan's father leading the protests and Brie's father refusing to budge, it's clear that their parents are heading towards an all-out war. Can Brie and Logan find a way to save the mustangs and be together? Or is their love doomed from the start?

This new title in the If Only line is the perfect summer read and proves that love flourishes in the wildest places!

## Wild Hearts Details

Date : Published May 5th 2015 by Bloomsbury USA Childrens

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Author : Jessica Burkhart

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## From Reader Review Wild Hearts for online ebook

### Yolanda Sfetsos says

I've had a very mixed reaction to most of the If Only books. While I absolutely adored WISH YOU WERE ITALIAN--which was the first one I read--I just couldn't get into the others. So when I received this last week I was a little sceptical. Still, I decided to give it a go, and before I knew it I'd hit page 107.

So, yeah, this one *totally* worked for me. :)

Brie Carter does a lot of travelling because her father is a land developer who gets contracts all over the country. This time she's headed for a small town called Lost Springs, in Wyoming. On her first day, before she's even reached the house her family will be staying in, she meets a jerk while trying to photograph bison. A very cute jerk who seems to be everywhere.

The one place she was hoping he wouldn't be was protesting the hotel her father is building. Most of the residents are against the structure going up because it affects wild mustangs who will be displaced by the build. And one of the strongest protestor's happens to be Logan's dad--that's the jerk's name. Except, the more she sees Logan, the more she realises that he isn't a jerk.

Logan McCoy is a hardworking guy who looks out for his family and is deeply concerned about the horses that will lose their home once the hotel goes up because he has a personal connection to them. The more she hangs out with him, and another local girl called Amy, the more Brie realises that the mustangs are something she's deeply concerned about too. She's never had her own calling, and now that she's found one she's determined to do whatever she can to pursue it.

Her newfound passion leads to following a dream she didn't even know she had. But it also gets her caught up in a strong relationship with an awesome guy, and an even stronger friendship with the nicest girl she's ever met. Now Brie knows how hard it's going to be when she has to move again, because it will happen. It's just a matter of time...

I was really surprised by how much I enjoyed this story! Brie's a really easy narrator to get caught up in. She's not some silly girl who falls for the first cute cowboy she sees. She's actually someone who is very close to her parents and has always kept people her age at a distance. She never wanted to become best friends with anyone--like she does with Amy--or fall in love with a guy--like she does with Logan--but in Lost Springs she can't resist both. And this leads to a lot of lies and situations that slowly unravel before she can stop them, but she never stops helping her father's business.

*Wild Hearts* is a wonderful book. On one hand it's a fun, light-hearted YA romance about giving into first love. And on the other, it deals with the very serious issue of the effect that humans have on wild animals when we continually build around them. I loved Brie's voice and got caught up in her struggle, but most of all I liked that even though she lied many times it wasn't just because she was selfishly wanting to spend time with a guy, but because she was honestly trying to help horses that don't have their own voice.

There was something really noble about Brie, Logan and Amy.

I enjoyed this book SO much that I'm willing to give more *If Only* books a go... ;)

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### **Skye (Skye's Scribblings) says**

DNF at Page 56. The main character's personality was flat and inconsistent, the dialogue rambling and nonlinear, and the description excessive and unnecessary (especially with pointless brand names). I tried to press on but just couldn't.

Check out the guest review on my blog [here!](#)

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### **Kataryna Hermans says**

You know those books that you pick up off the shelf for a light read but end up being drawn into it so deep that you just want the story to never end? That is this book and may I say I am so happy that i did.

What a wonderful story. I was hooked from beginning to end and wished there was another 200 pages. This is definitely a book that anyone will love. Great job Jessica Burkhart!

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### **Erin Lynn says**

This review can also be seen on my blog, [The Hardcover Lover](#).

*Wild Hearts* is a standalone novel in the If Only . . . series, a series of novels about forbidden love. The cool thing about the series is that all of the titles are standalone novels, so they can be read in any order (or you could skip the ones that don't interest you). *Wild Hearts* by Jessica Burkhart is the first title that I've read in the series (and my first Jessica Burkhart book), and I'm sure it probably won't be the last as many of the released and upcoming titles look entertaining and adorable. Unfortunately, *Wild Hearts* wasn't a huge hit for me, but I did find some aspects of the book to be cute.

*Wild Hearts* is about Brie Carter and Logan McCoy's *Romeo and Juliet* romance. They are immediately attracted to one another, but their fathers hate each other. Their romance is pretty much instantaneous, and if I had to, I'd label it as instalove. It just seemed a bit unrealistic for the new girl in town to fall for the most gorgeous guy in town so quickly. Their romance is sickly sweet, and to be honest, it was a bit too much for me to handle. Sometimes I thought parts were outstanding and adorable, but other times, I was scratching my head because it was just so weird.

Brie is one of those characters that I could take or leave, and for me, it's kind of a problem if I don't connect with the protagonist. Here she is, a girl who is forced to move pretty much every year, and she's just kind of bland. She has a lot of stories, but they really don't make her as interesting as one would think they would. She complains a lot about not having "a thing" of her own. It was nice to see that she wanted to find something that made her unique in the world, but the complaining got annoying. By the middle of the book, she finds something that makes her happy, and I loved that part, but it was kind of upsetting that she just dropped her "no boyfriend until college" rule to find the thing that she wanted. Even so, I was proud of her by the end of the novel for all that she and Logan accomplished in such a short amount of time.

If you're looking for a YA romance that's set in the country, then *Wild Hearts* is definitely for you. I can see many readers devouring this book during a summer camping trip or at the beach. Burkhart does a great job at setting the scene and tone of life in Lost Springs, and her imagery is fantastic, even if some aspects of the book are a little corny. She writes about horses in a way that felt very realistic, and those parts held my interest, even if I didn't agree with some of the things that the characters do. I felt like I was able to picture the entire town of Lost Springs, and it was a fairly enjoyable ride.

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### **Lisa says**

3.5 stars!

I have to admit... I am NOT a fan of horses. They completely and utterly scare the bejesus out of me. They are far too large and I'm fan too unfamiliar with them to have any comfort level at all about a zero. But for some reason, reading about them has proved to be quite enjoyable. I used to avoid ALL books that had anything to do with horses... but I've found that as long as horses aren't the main focus of the book, I'm still able to really enjoy it. I love reading about the country (since I grew up in a small country town) and about living the "farm" life, as it brings back fond memories. So this book just so happened to be exactly what I was hoping it would be. Sweet, only a tad emotional, and had me smiling throughout.

Brie's father is a land developer, which causes their entire family to relocate on a pretty frequent basis. She doesn't have the opportunity to make friends or really feel at home in any of her locations. She's used to this life, and therefore convinces herself that she likes it this way. That's until they arrive in Lost Spring, Wyoming and she finds herself falling in love with more than just their gorgeous house.

I have to admit I had no idea there was such a thing as wild mustangs. Crazy, right?! I'm not really sure why this ever occurred to me before, but I just never thought of a horse being a wild animal. Tame, domestic horses scare me enough... the thought of a herd of wild mustangs running past me downright gave me heart palpitations just reading about it! This book focuses quite a bit on these horses and not ruining their living situation. As an animal lover myself, I really respected and enjoyed this side of the story. I also loved the characters in this book. From Logan and his family to Brie and hers, these characters were flawed and made their mistakes, while keeping a strong family bond and always having each others' backs. There was also a huge emphasis on friendship, which I'm always all for. Good friends are hard to find, especially in books!

Though at times Logan's perfection seemed a little too unrealistic, (let's face it, he IS still a teenage boy!) I still found myself smiling and sighing. It felt much like a chick flick to me. I really love watching romantic comedies as much as the next person, even though guys in real life NEVER fulfill those stereotypes in the movies. And this had a similar feel to me. Yes, Logan was too good to be true... but since I was looking for a super sweet book, this one hit the spot!

*Wild Hearts* is in a series called If Only..., which is a group of books that all have unrelated characters, but have a similar vibe. They are all by different authors, yet I've had a lot of luck with this series. I've read a few of the others, and each one is super cute and a lot of fun. They are perfect beach reads, and I continue to recommend them to anyone in the mood for a sweet book that will leave you swooning, smiling, and even blushing at times.

*(Thanks to Bloomsbury for the review copy!)*

**Find this review and others like it at Lost in Literature!**

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### **Emily S. says**

Probably 3.5 stars.

I didn't have high expectations going in (hello, looks like a teen angst book to me), so I was pleasantly surprised. The constant barrage of product placement bugged me (I do not need to know that a rich teenager can afford Urban Decay makeup and I can't, thank you very much), but I enjoyed the story itself. It got the job done without being preachy, and I'll admit that I worried about that after reading the author's notes first. She did a fine job of telling the story and getting her point across without it becoming annoying.

Cute story, and I'm looking forward to the rest of the 'If Only' series now.

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### **Tee loves Kyle Jacobson says**

Wild Hearts is a good book to read in front of the fire place on a cold snowy day. That is exactly what I did and I really enjoyed this book. I did not read the first three but they can be read as stand alone reads.

We have Brie Carter who moves around a lot because of her father's business. She doesn't make friends and she does not form attachments because she knows she is going to be leaving soon. So when her father comes home and says they are moving to Lost Spring, Wyoming she is not surprised.

Only when they get to Lost Springs, Wyoming it is nothing like what she thought it would be. First off the towns people are very hostile because they do not want a hotel in their town because they are afraid it is going to hurt the Mustangs. In the towns eyes the Mustangs come first and nothing else. So when they have to make a decision they chose what is right for the town.

Among all this fighting Brie meets Logan. She is smitten with Logan but soon finds out that Logan's father is the one protesting against the hotel. Now she is wondering if Logan and her can stop this feud and be together. Will they end the feud in time? Or will the Carter's be packing and moving on?

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### **Anna says**

This was a very sweet and cute romance for you and the dogs Logan was an awesome love interest and I really enjoyed how there was no X between the two lovebirds I recommend this book to anyone who wants a lighthearted romance

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## **Hannah says**

Review will be up shortly

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## **Brooke says**

### **\*Originally reviewed @ Brooke Reviews\***

*This e-galley was provided by Netgalley and Bloomsbury in exchange for an honest review.*

I really liked the premise of this book – it had a sort of Romeo and Juliet vibe (feuding fathers!) as well as the horses thing, which sounded promising. But the book didn’t meet expectations, and that’s always disappointing.

Brie and Logan fall for each other pretty quickly. I definitely would have preferred a “slow burn” rather than insta-love. And their relationship is so perfect. I originally thought this was because author Jessica Burkhart was leading up to some dramatic fallout between the two, or some sort of climactic moment involving their fathers’ disagreement, but no such luck. As a result, it didn’t capture my attention like I hoped it would.

Also, I felt like the horses weren’t a huge part of the plot until the second half of the book. And by then, much of the conflict had been resolved.

I did appreciate Burkhart’s exploration of Brie’s character, especially Brie’s evolving perspective on moving so often for her father’s job. Brie also searches for her own “thing,” and it was interesting to see her rally behind a project.

In the vein of the other “If Only” books, Wild Hearts is light and fun – unfortunately, it fell a bit flat for me.

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## **Rmsooon says**

Ive read " wild hearts",, i ddnt like it, gave it 2.5 out of 5

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## **Michelle says**

\*\*You can see this full review and more at Book Briefs: <http://bookbriefs.net>\*\*

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3.5/5

Wild Hearts is the fourth standalone title in Bloomsbury's young adult contemporary "If Only" romance line centered around an impossible problem: you always want what you can't have! Each of the books has a cute if only sentence, and Wild Hearts' is "If Only...their fathers didn't hate each other." Brie's father is a land developer and he is hired to create a new hotel in a small rural town...where wild mustangs run. I bet you can guess that the town is not too happy with that. And cue, Logan's father being the mad ranch hand. Along with the rest of the towns people.

I thought Wild Hearts was a very cute little romance. It was very light hearted and a read that will make you feel good. For being an irate town of protesters, I thought that Logan was actually very welcoming. Maybe a little too welcoming, if that makes any sense. My only snag with Wild Hearts was that most of the town was so nice and understanding. Which normally, I would love. But these people hated Brie's father, they were protesting on their front yard the first night they were there, but the sheriff told them to stop and they all backed off. I would have thought that if the community was as small as it seemed that the sheriff would be on the side of the townspeople, but everyone seemed so logical. At one point Logan was like, well your dad has all the proper permits so there isn't really anything we can do. WTF? haha it just seemed bizarre for a teenage boy that was so connected with the horses to act so calm and rational about everything.

But I suppose if my only hang up on the story was that everyone in the town was too nice, I guess that isn't really a bad thing. It was just a little surprising how quickly Logan took to Brie because I would have thought he would have really disliked her. At least at first. But Logan and Brie were super cute together. I loved watching them with the horses. Wild Hearts was just a whole lot of fun. I have read a couple of the books in the If Only story line, and they are true standalones. I wouldn't even call If Only a series. It is just a line of books, by different authors that center around the theme that you want what you can't have. Which is the perfect thing for young adult books. There are so many ways authors can go with it. And Wild Hearts was a great take on the If Only line. A cute read for any time of the year.

This review was originally posted on Book Briefs

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### **Kirsti says**

For a slightly cheesy YA read, this actually was pretty good! I guess I was initially drawn to this book because it featured horses, mustangs at that. Then I actually grew to like the characters- all of them for once. Even though the romance was the cheesy bit, and I thought it all happened very quickly, I ended up enjoying that part too.

This is actually the fourth in a series, but you don't need to have read the others. I will actually keep my eye out for them though, even though they're all by different authors. It might be fun to read them, too.

A fun, light romance with some amazing horses too. Four stars.

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### **Ashley (Loves Books) says**

\*\*This review will post to Ashley Loves Books at a later date.\*\*

I'm pretty torn about this book. I went into it thinking it would be a typical teenage romance, Romeo and Juliet-esque with the feuding families. There would be arguing, there would be sneaking, there would ultimately be true love that makes it work. And I wasn't wrong, and that wasn't bad, per se. It's nice to have adorable, predictable love stories sometimes. It's kind of reaffirming about the world, in a strange way.

And I liked a lot of the elements. I thought it was awesome that Brie had a temper and a bit of an attitude –she was a really good helping of sassy without being bitchy. I like how close she is with her family too, even though it was largely about her kind of breaking that trust they had established. The author was also

incredibly spot on about your feelings, reservations, and personal barriers you put up when you move around a lot. As a military BRAT, that pretty much was my life, and she did a great job portraying it as something both good and bad.

And I was definitely on board with Logan. I mean, a sweet cowboy who takes care of himself, his brother, his dad, the horses, his entire town, AND still manages to be friendly and romantic to the girl?! Definitely too perfect to actually exist, but I'm ok with it. He was lovely to read about.

But I think what got me was how...young this entire novel seemed. As Logan and Brie's relationship progressed, the age level of how they treated each other and the world around their relationship regressed. The sneaking went up, the rationale got younger, things just...it didn't match up to me, and it bugged me quite a bit. Brie just didn't handle things as I thought she would, as the beginnings of the book lead me to believe she would be. I understand having a difficult dad – trust me – but I thought it was unrealistic how amazed she was that there was a way to support both her family and boyfriend, that there was some “secret” third belief that could marry the two.

So, while I thought a lot of the story was sweet and held a lot of possibility, the second half really brought it down, making it a little disorganized and baffling. It all came together well, I just didn't quite enjoy getting there.

3 stars

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### **Danielle (Love at First Page) says**

If Only... is a companion series of sorts written by various authors, not tied together by characters or setting but by theme. They all center around an "impossible romance" and the idea of wanting what you can't have. I enjoyed both *Not in the Script* and *Fool Me Twice*, but unfortunately *Wild Hearts* never clicked with me. It's not a bad book, it's just very mediocre and boring. There were way too many unnecessary details and descriptions that made the book feel like a chore to read at times, plus the characters never stood out to me. I liked Brie and Logan, but I'll probably forget about them by tomorrow. As for their romance, I didn't really sense much chemistry between them. They sort of just get together, and while there's very little drama between them and they spend most of the book as boyfriend/girlfriend, it all falls flat. The forbidden aspect comes into play because their dads are feuding. Honestly, the whole thing seemed rather childish to me, especially the way Brie's father behaved. I'm disappointed I didn't connect to this one more, since I was really looking forward to it.

\*\*\*I received an ARC at ALAMW but this did not influence my review in any way.\*\*\*

This review can also be found at Love at First Page.

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