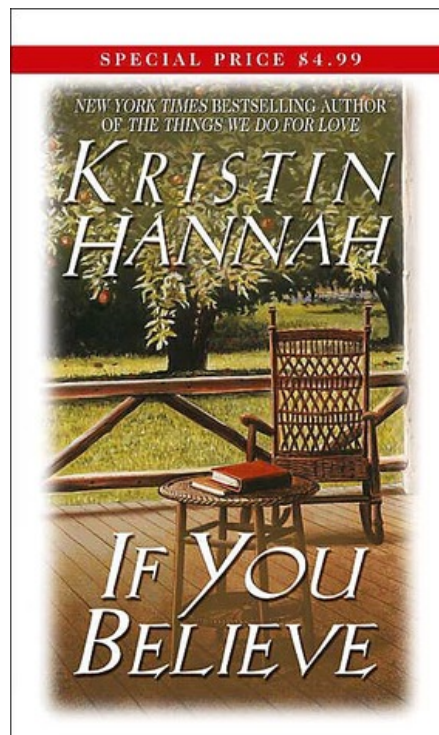




If You Believe

Kristin Hannah

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If You Believe

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If You Believe Kristin Hannah

In a dazzling career spanning a dozen acclaimed novels, Kristin Hannah has distinguished herself as an amazingly sensitive writer who can tap into the deepest, most precious mysteries of the heart. If You Believe is one of her finest books--a timeless tale of two lonely people who witness the miracle of second chances.

Mariah Throckmorton was hiding from a past filled with scandal. Mad Dog Stone was a drifter looking for a few days' work. He walked into her life, threatening Mariah's peace of mind and stirring emotions she tried to hide. Their love was born against all odds, difficult to count on, impossible to hold. Together they would learn the bittersweet truth--that love exists only if you believe. . . .

If You Believe Details

Date : Published April 27th 2004 by Ballantine Books (first published December 4th 1993)

ISBN : 9780345467102

Author : Kristin Hannah

Format : Mass Market Paperback 384 pages

Genre : Romance, Fiction, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Historical, Historical Fiction

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From Reader Review If You Believe for online ebook

Susan says

I can understand why this was a difficult story to tell. My husband & best friend died 5 years ago & I still can't cry. I can't describe the loneliness without him. But I think it helped to read this book, helps to have someone else's feelings about it put into words. There's no one I can talk to about how I feel. So I thank you for writing a story so full of feelings shared by many I'm sure. I read all of Kristen Hannah books I find. They are full of insights.

Sharon Metcalf says

2.5 rounded up to 3 stars

If I'm honest, I'd have to say I was disappointed by this book which simply didn't feel like it was written by Kristin Hannah. This was a historical novel in the style of many romance books I've read and unfortunately it felt formulaic to me. Whilst I still enjoyed the book, and never doubted I'd finish it, I was not drawn into the web of these characters the way I normally am by Kristin Hannah.

Mad Dog was the bad boy - a boxer, a drifter, a man with a penchant for whores and tequila. A man who never stays anywhere and who likes his life that way. Mariah is a 34 year old spinster living the life of a recluse with her elderly father on a remote farm. She was stern, uptight, practised at repressing her emotions and living her life largely without happiness. When Mad Dog and Mariah's paths cross, first impressions are that they couldn't be more different. There was a token attempt at making it appear that way but within a matter of days Mad Dog wasn't portrayed as much of a bad boy and the uptight Mariah was struggling to repress her passion. Don't get me wrong, I'm often satisfied with a sappy romance with a happily ever after ending, it's just that I wasn't expecting that book from Kristin Hannah.

Vicky says

I always love Hannah. Everything she writes is good even her oldies but goodies.

Gamruk says

Bay?ld?m kitaba. Okudu?um ilk Kristin Hannah kitab?yd?. Hemen siteye ko?up di?er kitaplar?n? ara?t?rd?m.

Deli Fi?ek ve Mariah cok farklilardi ama arad?klar? ?ey ortak?. S?cak bir yuva.

??in i?ine tonton bir baba ve ya??ndan b?y?k olgunlukta bir velet girince zaten bende ipler kay?? kopuyor. Zevkle okudum. ?neriyorum herkese:))

????? ??? ??? says

If you haven't read Kristen Hannah's IF YOU BELIEVE you are missing out on one of the best character driven, emotionally wrenching stories the genre has to offer. Mad Dog Stone is a fighter who works odd jobs in between matches. He never stays in one place long enough to form any kind of emotional attachment and has broken many a heart along the way. His life is about to change when he answers an add for free room and board in exchange for a little work at the Throckmorton apple orchard. How hard can picking apples be after all? The last thing Mariah Throckmorton wants is change in her life, especially in the form of a big, shiftless male. She is living in a self imposed exile while hiding from a scandalous past and a tragedy she has never allowed herself to recover from. She does her darnedest to get this lazy critter off of her farm, which tends to make him all the more determined to hang around and take whatever new torture disguised as work she dishes out. She intrigues him as no other woman has and her obliviousness to his charms makes her all the more alluring. The author writes with such emotional intensity I found myself either smiling or crying on nearly every page. She skillfully blends raucous wit with tender and heartbreakingly painful moments of emotion making If You Believe a powerful, not soon to be forgotten read. You won't find any fancy locales or wacky adventures in this book. What you will find is an honest down to earth book about two lonely people overcoming their fear of emotional intimacy and learning about the healing powers of love. What more could a reader ask for? A full box of Kleenex read and a definite keeper!

Arlene says

What a touching and beautiful story. I haven't read Kristin Hannah for so long. I've missed her writing style.

Meital Ben-Daniel says

Another beautiful book by Kristin Hanna.
A love against all odds found in the most unlikely places.
I liked it and recommend it !!

Begumtez says

Biraz zorlama bir kitap olmu?. Bir geçi? kitab? gibi. Yazar sanki "öylesine bir kitap yazayım bari" demi? gibi. Zaten kitab?n sonunda te?ekkür bölümünde sanc?l? bir kitap oldu benim için demi?. Ama ben bu yazar?n kitaplar?na dü?ük puan veremiyorum bir türlü.

Beccalarge says

It's a good thing this wasn't the first Kristin Hannah novel I read, because it would have for sure been the last. One of her first novels, written when I presume she was trying to be a Harlequin romance novelist. Seriously, it was hard for me to believe this was the same author who wrote "Winter Garden" and "Firefly Lane". Not only did it read like a dime store romance novel...the lonely spinster with a broken heart who vows never to love again and the handsome drifter who refuses to settle in one place or ever be with one woman, that is until he meets her... That's it. You know the rest of the silly, predictable story, that really is not a story at all, just lots of repetitive writing (really, I think the entire book could have been told in 20 pages) with plenty of cliched love scenes thrown in (complete with words like heaving and groaning...oh

brother!)

Even the death (and I am starting to think that death might be a common theme in all her books?) scene felt forced and manipulated, just something thrown in to make the reader cry (which I didn't), the heroine even more lonely and desperate and the drifter feel trapped enough to leave...

If you are a Kristin Hannah fan, and you want to stay that way, don't read this book.

Karen & Gerard says

This is an historical novel about love. Three lonely people find each other, Mariah, Mad Dog, and Jake. Although very predictable, I enjoyed this book because of the issues Mariah and Mad Dog both had. Jake following his dad hoping for a happy reunion was heartwarming. Rass, Mariah's father, was my favorite character because of his concern for his daughter and his kindness toward Mad Dog and Jake. He kept seeking to improve his relationship with his daughter and help her let go of the past so she could enjoy the present and the future before he died. I loved the banter between Mariah and Mad Dog. This book has wit, humor and heartbreak.

Min Li Li says

Klasik Hannah kitaplarından farklıydı ve çok güzeldi. Keşke hep bu tarz yazsa. Her şeyiyle çokca sevdim bir kitap oldu.

HÜLYA says

2018'in ilk kitabı... Yazarın okuduğum diğer kitaplarına nazaran daha derinlikli bir konusu vardı. Kısacasından sonra vasat geldi... Ama yine de çok çok güzeldi.. İkinci şans hikayelerine bayıldım...

Seda says

“Deli Fidek onun kararı mı? Yok ediyor, onu savunmasız bırakıyordu. Tanrı aklına onu sinirlendiriyor, gülümsetiyor, ona kahkaha attırıyordu.

Mariah âdeta ya adanmış mı? Hissediyordu.

Bir erkeğe karşı bir şey hissetmeyeli uzun zaman olmuştu. Kalbini tümüyle vermiş, karşılığında çok az şey istemişti. Duygularıyla kendi kendini mahvetmişti.

Mariah yeniden ya adanmış mı? Hissetmek istemiyordu. Aralarında içi-içeren iki kısımdan öte bir şey olsun istemiyordu. Çünkü ötesi canın yakacaktı. Çizmelerinin yaprakları, delikli tabanları onun hakkında bilmesi gereken her şeyi söylüyordu zaten.

E?er ?nan?rsan, erkek karakterin sa?n? ba?n? yolmak istedi?im, bildi?imi bilmedi?im k?f?rleri i?imden s?k?p alan, ‘bitse de hayata d?nsem art?k’ diyerek okurken can?mdan bezdi?im bir kitap oldu benim i?in. ?ncelikle belirtmek isterim ki karakterin huyunu sevmedim diye iki y?ld?z vermedim. Zira nefret etti?im karakterlerin kitab?na 5 y?ld?z vermi?li?im var daha ?nce. Ama burada kitap beni bo?du.

Kitab?n t?r? asl?nda historical ve 1894’te bir elma çiftli?inde ge?iyordu. ?lk b?l?mler ?ok g?zel ba?lad?. Deli Fi?ek ve Mariah’?n inatla?malar?, Mariah’?n s?rekli ters cevaplar vermesi ama bir yandan da inatla?man?n alt?nda bir koca kazan tutkunun kaynamas? ?ok g?zeldi. Hem Mariah’ya bay?ld?m hem de ?ok e?lendim bu b?l?mlerde.

Mariah karakter olarak ?ok etkiledi beni. Annesinin ve babas?n?n kendileri i?in kurduklar?, k?zlar?n? i?ine almay? unuttuklar?, sevgi dolu d?nyadan nasibini alamam???. Sevmeyi ve seilmeyi ??renememi?, birisinin ilgisine, sevgisine 16 ya??ndayken de ?imdi de hasret kalm?? bir karakterdi. Hep kendini yaln?z ve sevgisiz hissetmi?ti, yapt??? hatalara da bu yaln?zlk sebep olmu?tu. Bir yandan alamad??? sevgi i?in ona ?z?l?rken bir yandan da g?r?nenin alt?nda daha derin ac?lar oldu?unu fark ettim. Ac?lar?n?n alt?nda sadece seilmeme ya da terk edilme yoktu, ?ok daha b?y?k bir ac?y? y?llarca i?inde saklam???. Bu y?zden de beyaz ?itlerinin arkas?na saklanarak, 18 y?l boyunca kendisini i?ine hapsetti?i, g?venli bir d?nya kurmu?tu. Ta ki Deli Fi?ek d?nyas?n? alt ?st edene kadar. Mariah’n?n, Jake’e olan duygusall???, ona bak???, yak?nla?mak istemeleri ama korkmalar? ?ok naif ve ?efkatliydi. (Hay?r a?k ??geni yok. Jake 16 ya??nda bir ?ocuk?)

Herkesin i?inde saklad???, g?z? gibi korudu?u, kimselere g?stermedi?i yaralar? vard?. Hepsinin pi?manl?klar? ve ke?keleri, ya?amak isteyip ya?ayamad?klar?, hayat?n bir ?ekilde ellerinden ald?klar?, kaybettikleri sevdikleri vard?. Hayat hepsinin elinden sevdiklerini alm??, yerine derin derin yaralar b?rakm???.

Deli Fi?ek -bir ismi var ama kitab?n sonunda ??reniyoruz, spoiler olmas?n- denen yarat?ktan hi? bahsetmek istemiyorum. Kendisi Mariah’ya her zaman d?r?st oldu?unu s?yledi. Ama bu durum beni hi? tatmin etmedi, d?r?stl? ?? ya da en ba??ndan a?k olmas?, beni hi? yumu?atamad?, karaktere hâlâ ?fkeliyim. Bir insan yapt??? yanl??? kabul edince, yapt??? ?ey yanl?? olmaktan ??kmaz. S?rekli ‘ben giderim, bak nas?l da a?k a?k s?yl?yorum bunu, ne kadar da d?r?st?m’ dedi. ?yi halt yiyorsun diye ba??rmak istedim kendisine. Oysaki burada can al?c? eylem, do?ruyu s?ylemek de?ildi, “G?TMEK” idi. Kalman?n tam z?tt? G?TMEK. Yapt??? ?ok ?nemli bir ?ey de?ildi belki ama Mariah gibi birine bu yap?lmazd?, haks?zlk, insafs?zlk?.

Rass -ve Greta tabii ki- yapt??? ya da zaman?nda yapmad??? ?eylerle beni deli etse de Rass’i sevdim. K?z? i?in son ?rp?n??lar?, baz? ?eyleri ge? de olsa fark etmesi ?ok h?z?nl?yd? . ?ok ge? fark etti?i ger?ekler o kadar ?ok can?n? yak?yordu ki ona k?zamad?m. Bir baba olarak, k?z?n?n kendisini soktu?u hapis hayat? en ?ok onu ?z?yordu, Mariah’?n her yaras?ndan kendini sorumlu tutuyordu.

Duygusal a?dan karakterleri sevsem de bu kitab? sevmeme yetmedi. Yaralar?, ge?mi?leri ?ok g?zel d? ??n?lm? ama fazla bo?ucu yaz?lm???. Kitap, ak?c?l?ktan o kadar uzakt? ki 300 sayfa? 3 g?nde okuyabildim. Yazar?n diliyle sorunun vard? san?r?m. Ak?c?l?ktan uzak, s?rekli ?ok yo?un duygu anlatan, ayn? ?eyleri farkl? kelimelerle ifade eden bir anlat?m? vard? bence. Karakterlerin, bir duygu durumunu, bir olay kar??s?nda o an hissettiklerini, 4-5 sayfa hi? ara vermeden okudu?um yerler oldu.

Ve esas sorunun... Uzuuun uzun yaz?lan anl?k hislere kar??lk, yazar kitab?n sonuna epilog yazmay? unuttu?tu. Deli Fi?ek’in sinir krizi ge?meme sebep oldu?u b?l?mden sonra, Mariah’n?n onu affetmesi sadece ?K? SAYFA s?rd? . B?t?n epilog da bu 2 sayfa?d? zaten. Uzun s?re eksik bas?m m? acaba diye kitaba bakt?m durdum. Yani kitaba a?k olsayd?m bile, s?rf epilog b?l?m? hi? yoktan biraz fazla oldu?u i?in yazardan nefret edebilirdim.

?”Evet, ne istiyorsun?”

Deli Filek ona bir elma uzatt?. “Bu k?rm?z? m?, yoksa k?rm?z?ms? m??”

Mariah elmay? deneyimli gözlerle inceledi. “K?rm?z?.”

“Peki ya bu?”

O an Mariah durumu anlad? ve gözlerini k?st?. “Bay Stone, benimle oyun mu oynuyorsunuz?”

Deli Fi?ek’in dudaklar? k?vr?ld?. “Bayan Throckmorton, seninle oynad???m zaman eminim bunu anlars?n.”

?“Dürüstlük. Ne al???lmad?k bir yakla???m.”

“Ben her zaman dürüstüm.”

Mariah homurdand?. Bu sözleri daha önce de duymu?tu, üstelik ?imdi tam kar???s?nda duran adam gibi birinden. “Elbette. Her zaman do?rular? m? söylersin? ?nsanlara ac? verse ya da senin hakk?nda kötü ?eyler dü?ünseler bile mi?”

“Bazen gerçekler can yakar. Hayat böyle.”

“Bu seni tehlikeli bir adam yap?yor Bay Stone.”

Deli Fi?ek ba???n? iki yana sallad?. “Yaln?zca benden bir ?ey bekliyorsan. Neyse ki kimse beklemiyor.

Peki ya sen Bayan Throckmorton? Sen dürüst müsün?

Mariah tam yan?t verecekken vazgeçti. “Hay?r,” dedi ve bu itiraf onu bile ?a???rttı. “San?r?m de?ilim.”

“Mariah?”

“Efendim.”

“Gerçek bir yalanc? ‘evet’ derdi.”

?Neden k?z?n?n bu kadar içine kapanmas?na izin vermi?ti ki? Dün gece Jake’in, bir yabanc?n?n gözlerine bakt???nda bile Rass ac?y? görmü?tü. Kendi öz çocu?unun gözlerindeki ac?y? nas?l kaç?rm???t? peki?

‘Özür dilerim Mariah. Seni seviyorum.’

O ve Greta bu sözleri tam anlam?yla duymayan, duymak istemeyen bir çocuk yaratm???lard?.

Bunu ona çocuklu?unda da m? söylemeyi unutm???lard?? O mutlu evlerinde tek ba???na kal?p onu hafife alan ebeveynlerinin sevgi sözcüklerini duymay? m? beklemi?ti?

Mariah’ya göre sevmek neydi? O hiç duymad??? kelimeleri yapayaln?z, ac? ve korku içinde bekleyip durmu? muydu?

?Mariah, Deli Fi?ek’e döndü ve “Onun... can?n? yakman? istemiyorum,” dedi.

Deli Fi?ek ciddile?ti. “Yeterince h?zl? olmazsa yumru?u yer. Bu kadar basit. Ac? çekmek de hayat?n bir parças?d?r Mariah. Aksi do?ruymu? gibi davranmak aptall?kt?r. Bu çocu?un kendi ba???n?n çaresine bakmay? öğrenmesi gerek ama dersler can yakar. Bunu anlayabiliyor musun?”

“Anl?yorum,” dedi usulca ve gerçekten anl?yordu. Onun çok iyi anlad??? bir ?ey varsa o da hayat?n ac? dolu bir ders oldu?uydu.

?“?ansl?s?n,” dedi Jake k?s?k sesle.

Deli Fi?ek ona döndü. “Neden?”

“En az?ndan baban? tan?yorsun. Benim babam ben daha do?madan annemi b?rak?p gitmi?.”

“Benim babam da bizi b?rak?p gitti.”

“Sen kendi çocu?unu b?rak?p gider miydin?”

“?ster inan ister inanma ama ben bunu çok dü?ündüm. Gençken çocu?um olsun istedim. ?yi bir baba olabilece?imi dü?ünürdüm.” Ba???n? iki yana sallayarak gülümsedi. “Sonra büyüdüm.”

“Ne demek istiyorsun?”

“?yi babalar yerinde durur Jake, bu kadar basit. Bense gidiyorum.”

“Nereden biliyorsun?”

Bu soru Deli Fi?ek’i ?a???rtm???t?. “Ne demek istiyorsun?”

“Bir yerde kalmay? denedin mi hiç?”

?“Can?n? yakmak istemedim Mariah.”

“San?r?m ben bir gezgin için uygun biri olamam.”
“Ke?ke sana ne söyleyebilece?imi bilseydim Mariah.”
“Ne söyleyece?ini biliyorsun. Ama söylemek istemiyorsun.”

Bark says

If you haven't read Kristen Hannah's IF YOU BELIEVE you are missing out on one of the best character driven, emotionally wrenching stories the genre has to offer.

Mad Dog Stone is a fighter who works odd jobs in between matches. He never stays in one place long enough to form any kind of emotional attachment and has broken many a heart along the way. His life is about to change when he answers an add for free room and board in exchange for a little work at the Throckmorton apple orchard. How hard can picking apples be after all?

The last thing Mariah Throckmorton wants is change in her life, especially in the form of a big, shiftless male. She is living in a self imposed exile while hiding from a scandalous past and a tragedy she has never allowed herself to recover from. She does her darnedest to get this lazy critter off of her farm, which tends to make him all the more determined to hang around and take whatever new torture disguised as work she dishes out. She intrigues him as no other woman has and her obliviousness to his charms makes her all the more alluring.

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A full box of Kleenex read and a definite keeper!

Melissa says

Reminiscent of LaVyrle Spencer's early works, If You Believe is a lovely and emotional historical romance from Kristin Hannah, perhaps better known now for her excellent contemporary novels (Firefly Lane, etc). She has always had a deft hand with creating realistic, likable and complex narratives, whatever the setting. In 1890s Washington State, drifter/boxer/frustrated writer "Mad Dog" Stone hires on as a handyman to the Throckmorton household/orchard, comprised of a lonely widower and his agoraphobic daughter, Mariah. How their lives come together through the harvest season and how each of them confronts loss, love and the demons each carry with them makes for an absorbing and resonant tale.
