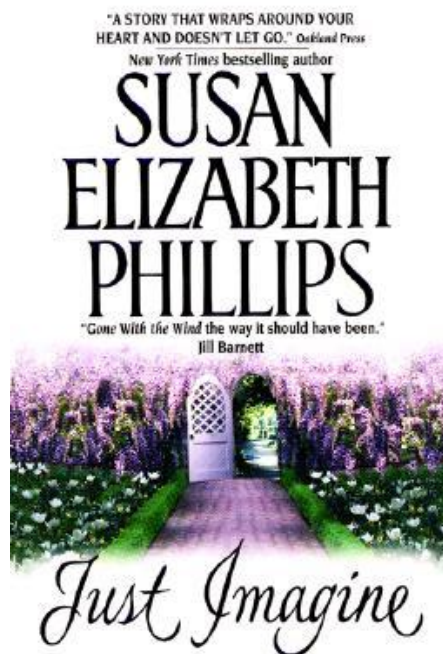




Just Imagine

Susan Elizabeth Phillips

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The War Between the States may be over for the rest of the country, but not for Kit Weston. Disguised as a boy, she's come to New York City to kill Baron Cain, the man who stands between her and Risen Glory, the South Carolina home she loves. But unknown to Kit, the Yankee war hero is more than her bitterest enemy—he's also her guardian. And he'll be a lot harder to kill than she's figured on . . .

Believing that Kit's a boy, Cain offers the grubby rascal a job in his stable. But he has no idea what he's in for, and it's not long before the hero of Missionary Ridge discovers the truth. His scamp of a stable boy is a strong-willed, violet-eyed beauty who's hell-bent on driving him crazy.

Two hard-headed, passionate people . . . Two stubborn opponents with tender souls . . . Sometimes wars of the heart can only be won through the sweetest of surrenders.

*This book is an updated version of the original title, **Risen Glory**.*

Just Imagine Details

Date : Published September 4th 2001 by Avon (first published October 1st 1984)

ISBN : 9780380808304

Author : Susan Elizabeth Phillips

Format : Paperback 384 pages

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

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From Reader Review Just Imagine for online ebook

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

I enjoyed this, even though I don't care for Antebellum setting at all. I think a shovel was in order for the overbearing hero (to hit him over the head with), though.

María Ángeles says

Muy, muy bonito.

Se nota que es un estilo diferente al que SEP suele utilizar, pero puedo decir que incluso me ha gustado más. Muy descriptivo y situado con gran maestría en un momento histórico muy importante para los EEUU. La importancia de las apariencias sociales que se vivían en esa época están magistralmente representados en la novela con unos de mis personajes favoritos: la "chaperona".

La historia de amor es fantástica y la tensión se vive a pesar de no contener demasiadas escenas eróticas. Un diez para Baron Cain, que además de guapo y "comestible", tiene una mentalidad y tolerancia muy adelantada a su tiempo.

Nota: La portada no le hace justicia al libro

Alba Turunen says

3 Estrellas, y conste que me ha costado mucho poner las estrellas porque es de SEP, aunque sea el primer SEP e histórico para más inri. He tardado muchos años en decidirme a leer este libro, porque no he tenido buenas experiencias con los primeros SEP contemporáneos, pero tarde o temprano había que leerlo, y también me echaba un poquito para atrás el contexto histórico, que no es mi favorito, pero vayamos al libro.

"Imagínate" nos cuenta la historia de Kit y Baron. Acaba de terminar la Guerra de Secesión, y Kit, la hija de un terrateniente sureño que ha tenido una infancia y educación muy descuidada, solo quiere una cosa, y es Risen Glory, la plantación de su padre, que debía haber sido suya por derecho y ahora su dueño es Baron Cain, un ex soldado del norte. Kit viaja a Nueva York con una sola idea, y es matar a Cain para que Risen Glory sea suya, pero las cosas no van nada bien cuando Cain la descubre. La plantación no solo pertenece a Cain, si no que éste es también el tutor de Kit, de modo que Cain se encuentra de repente con una propiedad que no quiere, y con una joven irritable que no es si no una molestia.

Entre ellos habrá una serie de tratos para que ambos puedan estar satisfechos con la situación, entre ellos que Risen Glory acabará siendo de Kit cuando se case, y que él reflote la plantación una vez que la guerra ha concluido. Pero pronto la situación sobrepasa a los protagonistas porque ambos son egoístas, cabezones y voluntariosos, piden el imposible el uno al otro y se suceden muchas escenas que a mí personalmente, me parecen muy desagradables, aunque acabes entendiendo sus posturas, pero ha tenido muchas cosas en el carácter y en el proceder de los protagonistas que no me ha gustado. Así y con todas, puedo decir que esta novela es un epítome de romance amor/odio, pero que no me ha gustado cómo se ha llevado.

Como libro histórico está muy bien contextualizado, y a este respecto SEP ha hecho los deberes, pero no deja de ser una novela ochentera, y ya sabemos que las ochenteras o eran un bodrio o realmente estaban tan bien ambientadas, que muchas hoy día no consiguen superarlas; pues "Imagínate" está entre las buenas. Repito,

como novela histórica genial, como romance de los protagonistas ha dejado mucho que desear.

En la parte romántica vemos un resquicio de lo que en un futuro serán los personajes contemporáneos de SEP, pero no nos equivoquemos, es un libro de una autora primeriza y se nota, no es un libro cómico o divertido a los que tan bien nos ha acostumbrado la autora. Tiene escenas en las que quizás la intención es que la lectora se divierta, pero no es como sus libros posteriores. La evolución de los personajes se ha visto muy de refilón, es verdad que el cambio mas notable es el de Kit, de ser un machirulo a una dama, y en cuanto a Baron, es un hombre 100% SEP, atractivo, seguro de sí mismo, voluntarioso y sabe triunfar en lo que quiere, mientras su deber es "educar " a la protagonista; es el proceder típico de SEP, pero ha tenido muchas cosas que no me han gustado.

Por otro lado le añadiría un extra si la historia secundaria se hubiese desarrollado un poco más, pero me ha parecido muy anecdótica, y el personaje de Sophronia no me ha gustado porque no la he entendido. Sin duda el personaje secundario que más gracia me ha hecho es Dolly la chaperona.

En fin, un primer SEP que se queda en eso, entretenido pero poco más, me sigo quedando con la SEP de los Chicago Stars.

Hollie says

~2.5 stars~

I love Susan Elizabeth Phillips, but this book.....not so much. Here's my breakdown:

The pros:

- * I love a strong and independent heroine - Kit did have this characteristic in the beginning
- * For a historical romance it had a modern feel to it

The cons:

- * The plot execution was awful - it started strong but crumbled fast
- * I despised both the hero and heroine - The hero was repulsive and nothing about his character was endearing nor redeemable - the heroine transformed from a strong girl to a weak and pathetic woman
- * The romance, ugh, I don't think there was any - I felt no love between the main characters - Their relationship was constantly hot and cold - hate and lust - they never at any point felt like a genuine couple - they were both so immature and were constantly making ignorant and impulsive decisions
- * The ending felt incredibly rushed - an epilogue at very least would have helped
- * One thing I adore about SEP is the humor and wit she delivers in her writing - this read never at any point even had me remotely smiling
- * Overpriced at \$5.99 - not worth that price

I'm sure I could think of a lot of other things to list, but I'm honestly tired of even thinking about this book. It annoyed me immensely. I do still love SEP and will likely read anything she publishes, this particular book was just a "miss" for me. Needless to say, I would not recommend this one.

Chitra *CJ* says

"Just Imagine" is the story of Katherine "Kit" Weston and Baron Cain.

When Kit is orphaned at the age of 18, and her family lands are thrust on to her stepbrother Cain- she decides to kill him and gain what is rightfully hers. However, as she's caught in his barn, she is mistaken as a stable boy and given a job.

Soon her identity is discovered, and Cain promises her Risen Glory in lieu her becoming a "proper lady", rather than the uncouth hellion she now is- and Kit reluctantly accepts.

Three years later, a beautiful belle enters back into Cain's life and attraction ignites. But all Kit has wanted is her land and trust fund, and all Cain wants is a semblance of happiness- can these two very different people finally come together?

I have to again confess- I love SEP- and I adore almost everything written by her- so the review might be a tad bit biased. This had impeccable plot and writing as expected, and I really enjoyed the banter between the characters.

Kit was impulsive and a bit immature, Cain was jealous and hard-headed; the passion and love between them was strong- so were the misunderstandings.

That being said, I hope that we had more insight on Cain and his inner feelings- because I'd have loved to read more about that. Veronica (the widow with lady boner for Cain) being a trivial part seemed unnecessary- but Dolly the chaperone was a pleasant surprise.

The second story revolved around the African-American Sophronia and Magnus, with a slight focus on treatment of slaves back in the day- this one had a cute ending.

Overall, this was not the best book by SEP- but I still did enjoy it. The ending was very satisfying- however I felt this one had the typical "oomph" factor missing- which makes me bawl and fall for this author every single time.

But I did cry.

Unsafe (view spoiler)

3/5

Karen says

OMG! LOVED this one! Review to come...

Flannery says

I love when the-most-beautiful-lady-in-all-the-land has a guy's haircut and dresses in britches and everyone thinks she's a dude. NOT. This plot device is used a lot and, while it allows for the fun of mistaken identity conversations and that moment when the lead male character realizes that he has been attracted to a woman, not a preteen male, it usually is not very believable.

Also, I am not a huge fan of historical fiction to begin with but I still enjoyed this. I mean, any excuse to use the word rascalion is a-okay in my book.

Something else I "learned" from this book: If you set something on fire, you should just chill out and wait until embers catch YOU on fire and smoke takes over your lungs. Don't run away. And, if at the last minute you decide you probably should've run away, make sure to leave a little token so people can figure out it was you. Seriously, Kit is supposed to be pretty intelligent. If an intelligent person is going to set a mill on fire (I know, right?), I'm betting they would spread the kerosene, strike a match, and then F-ING RUN LIKE HELL. She totally could've gotten away with it. Though I suppose Cain could not have "punished" her if he didn't know it was her. Alas.

***TANYA* says**

Sigh!!! I loved this book. Super adorable. I hadn't read an SEP book in forever and this one hit the mark for me. If only these 2 characters could have toned down their prideful personalities. Lol.

♥Sharon♥ says

I had hoped to do a full review on this one but RL is a bit hectic at the moment. So this will be quick.

Just Imagine was another fantastic read. I know I keep repeating myself when it comes to SEP but it bares repeating. I LOVE HER STORIES. They are always comforting and never fail to make me happy.

I enjoyed Katharine (Kit) Louise Weston and Major Baron Nathaniel Cain and the animosity they felt towards each other. With each chapter that animosity started to weaken and something else took its place. ♥

She was savagely beautiful, his wild rose of the deep wood, as untamed as the day he'd met her, still ready to stab a man's flesh with her thorns at the same time she enticed him with her spirit.

Another fantastic read!!

Didi says

Although I haven't had much success with SEP's more recent stuff, or maybe I wasn't in the right mind frame...I really liked this. It had an epic feel to it, made me think of those sweeping romances. I loved seeing Kit transform from tomboy to vixen and finally to a woman comfortable in her own skin.

At first I felt Baron was an ass, but even he grew on me. His past was very depressing and traumatic. He and Kit shared so much yet couldn't seem to agree on anything. But as fate would have it, some things are just meant to be. The secondary plot about Sophronia and Magnus was fantastic. I loved seeing Magnus in his element and proving how much of a real man he was for Sophronia. The turmoil, angst, and ending, were all wonderful.

Thanks for the rec, Mo ;).

Ana M. Román says

3,5 Estrellas

Buen libro, con una buena ambientación. La autora sabe situarnos en una época difícil sin caer en dramatismos a los que bien se podría haber agarrado. Aún así, sabe plasmar bien las diferencias de pensamiento entre unos y otros, por más que una opinión fuera un tanto insostenible (la esclavitud nunca es justificable). Aunque por encima, ya que no era el objetivo de esta novela, plasma bien no sólo el origen del conflicto sino lo que supuso para los vencidos.

Por otro lado, aunque la historia es buena y está bien escrito debo decir que me faltó ese “algo” que hace que me sienta verdaderamente enganchada a la historia

Me gustan mucho las historias de chica disfrazado de chico y las situaciones que eso puede desencadenar pero aquí no lo explotaron como me gusta a mí. Lo mismo digo de un par de situaciones más. Pero como digo, eso es meramente subjetivo porque objetivamente es un libro al que no tengo nada que reprochar.

ShoSho says

I didn't like the H/H much but I enjoyed the book very much . This book reminded me of "Gone with the wind". There were a lot of similarities .

The narrator was great .If I had been reading this ,I probably would have skimmed the second half of the book. She did a great job of mellowing out the hero's asshat tendencies . She made him sound gentle even when he was saying or doing something cruel.

Alice Kellen says

4,5. Me sorprende la nota que tiene esta novela en comparación a otras de la misma autora, porque a mí me ha gustado mucho (tanto, que me la leí en un día y hacía meses que eso no me ocurría). Como siempre, los chicos de SEP y sus tramas, enamoran. Y, además, arriesga con una protagonista femenina nada fácil y que me ha encantado (no sé si lo he dicho alguna vez, pero me encantan las protas de esta autora, siempre son únicas y se salen de lo habitual).

Mo says

The War Between the States may be over for the rest of the country, but not for Kit Weston. Disguised as a boy, she's come to New York City to kill Baron Cain, the man who stands between her and Risen Glory, the South Carolina home she loves.

Believing that Kit's a boy, Cain offers the grubby rascal a job in his stable. But he has no idea what he's in for, and it's not long before the hero of Missionary Ridge discovers the truth. His scamp of a stable boy is a strong-willed, violet-eyed beauty who's hell-bent on driving him crazy.

Two hard-headed, passionate people.... Two stubborn opponents with tender souls.... Sometimes wars of the heart can only be won through the sweetest of surrenders.

With the blurb alone I knew I was going to like this one. Two strong-willed people. Her hatred and dislike of him. Oh, my, it was sweet.

Tortured hero. Stubborn heroine. I wasn't sure how it would work as she was quite young when they first met. But it worked. Yessir, it worked mighty fine.

He'd learned as a child not to get attached to anything.

She reminded him of a wild rose, growing tangled and unruly in the deepest part of the woods

"Flirting's in your nature, Kit. Sometimes I don't even think you know you're doing it. I've been told that Southern women acquire the knack in the womb, and you don't seem to be any exception."

**She'd had her revenge.
Now it was his turn ...**

Nothing was going to be easy for these two.

She was savagely beautiful, his wild rose of the deep wood, as untamed as the day he'd met her ...

I won't say too much more. I know a lot of friends do not read Historicals. Your loss, I say. But to my friends who do read them, I really think this is a great one.

At the moment he hated her ...

Ingela says

Review written September 4, 2017

4.4 Stars - Fabulous fun, well done and romantic as always when written by SEP. Enjoyed every minute..

Wonderful story and sweet romantic as always when by Susan Elizabeth Phillips. Yay! Now I know her historicals are as good as her more famous contemporary romances.

Wow, just finished *Just Imagine* as a 11:27 audiobook terrific narrated by Christine McMurdo-Wallis (new for me).

« The heroine, **Katharine Louise Weston**, better known as *Kit*, has dressed all her life in britches and is more at home in the stable than the parlor. She travels from the Deep South to *New York City* to kill **Major Baron Cain**, the Yankee who stole her family plantation. When Cain hires her as a stable boy, Kit is delighted. But, before she can shoot him, Cain discovers she's a woman and forces Kit to change her strategy.... »

This time a SEP romance set in a historical time. I got a very nice *Gone with the Wind* feeling. It's after the American States Civil War and we are meeting a wild southern innocent young heroine and a tough northern very dashing hero. Gosh!! — It is witty, lot of fun, heartbreaking sometimes and both nicely hot and very tender. Not a boring minute. Full speed and some surprising turns and twists and a nice enemy to lovers topic. — Yay! What more could I wish for? — ... Absolutely nothing a gray, rainy autumn week as this last one.

I LIKE - and I always enjoy to listening to great SEP romances
