



If I Could...

Rene D. Schultz

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At nineteen, Ema Vaduva was pregnant when she was forced to leave Romania. For twenty-eight years, Ema and her daughter, Daniela, reclusively lived a quiet and modest life. They were inseparable until one fatal day—Ema dies. That day would change Dani's life forever—until one afternoon while cleaning out her mother's closet, she finds a brown box. Are secret clues to her mother's past tucked inside? Alone and desperate, and with nothing else to lose, Dani's goes in search of answers. Will that brown box hold the answers to Ema's past and Dani's future...?

If I Could... Details

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From Reader Review If I Could... for online ebook

Vici says

Just days before the release of IF I COULD... I was contacted by the author and given a copy of her book to read. This was an honor I will never forget! The day the book was released, I bought the Kindle version so I could read it wherever I was.

Once in a while you come across a book that just grabs you from the first and ever lets you go. Rarely do you come across an author who seems to peer into your own soul and personally weave you into her books. Rene D. Schultz IS that author. I have been a HUGE fan since I discovered BISHOP STREET back in December. Every one of her books is just amazing!!

IF I COULD... is another grand slam!! Her characters become your close friends as you become entwined in the story ... or she writes about people you are close to ... or you find yourself as the main character. Through her words she breaths life into all of her characters so you can reach out and immediately become a part of their world.

IF I COULD..., as all of her novels I have read, has a strong female as the main character. Not those necessarily born an Alpha, but those who have grown strong from the journey life has dealt them. They have been refined through life's fire and emerged as pure gold.

DANI is an example of those women. She is forced into excruciating heartbreak and loss until she feels totally alone. She receives insight and wisdom from ESTELLE, who reminds me of my beloved grandmother. This journey DANI finds herself thrust into doesn't make her bitter ... It makes her better! She is compassionate to those facing the fear of walking similar roads and determined to find answers to hidden secrets of her past.

Be prepared for this story line to touch you in a personal way and don't be surprised if the outcome helps you become a stronger person, too. I can hardly wait to read her next book, YOU WON'T BELIEVE YOUR EYES!! Until then, read everything written by this author; you will NOT be disappointed. HAPPY READING!

Debbie Carnes says

As always Rene Schultz has written another winner. If I Could is a wonderful, heartfelt book , it touches your soul.

I have read most of Rene Schultz's books and I am always moved beyond words

Lauren says

This is a fantastic and emotional read about a woman named Dani who is fighting through the loss of her son and her mother. Dani goes on a wild journey to find her family, and it leads her down several emotional twists and turns. This story pulls you in at the very beginning and leaves you begging for more. I do wish we

weren't left on such a cliff hanger, so hopefully there is a sequel. I want to know where Dani's life goes from this point forward. Be prepared to ugly cry once or twice and scream finally when the truth comes out (I guessed it early on so it was more of a relief).

Maria says

I received this book as a gift from the author for an honest book.

I began reading this book with great anticipation considering how much I loved the first two books from Rene Schultz. While this was a good book it was not quite up to the same level for me as the Bishop Street series.

The characters were well developed and it was a good storyline, but sometimes it dragged and the end seemed a little shortened.

You meet the lead character, Dani, a year after she has suffered two terrible losses, her son to disease and her mother to a sudden heart-attack. She follow along with her as she struggles with depression and the feeling of abandonment. Rene is able to portray this feeling well but sometimes you want to slap Dani as you realize she may not have her family but she has an extensive range of friends who are like her family.

When she finally decides to clean her mother's stuff she finds a box with secrets that sends her on a search for her mother's past to include a trip to her mother's home country of Romania. I wish Rene Schultz had spent a little more time with Dani's search here. You learned a little of what she did but you couldn't really get a sense of how it affected her.

The resolution of the search was a little abrupt. I won't give the ending away but after spending an entire book with Dani I can't believe she was so forgiving and accepting so quickly.

Again, I liked the book just not on the same level as the Bishop Street books. Rene Schultz is still a great author I will be reading more as she writes them.

Shelby says

Get ready for another stunning 5 star read by the amazingly talented Rene D. Schultz! If I Could kept me turning pages well past bedtime. I just couldn't put it down!

This author has filled her newest masterpiece, like all of her previous masterpieces, with some of the strongest characters you could ever hope to meet. There is Dani who has gone through some of the most horrible situations life can throw at you and yet still seems to find so much good in her world. There is Anton, Dani's neighbor. He is the strong, silent type but is always there to help Dani in whatever way he can. You'll meet Estelle, Dani's feisty cemetery companion who always tells it like it is. Then, there's Ema. Beautiful, strong Ema who is Dani's mother. She reminded me so much of my own mother. She's hard working and kind and loving and smart. These are just a few, of course. There are so many more. For example, fans of Rene D. Schultz may be pleased to have the opportunity to reacquaint themselves with one of her coolest characters of all time, Dr. Cal.

I could go on and on about how great the characters are but in all honesty this book has it all...family, friendship, mystery, romance, danger, and it's extremely well written. It really gets you thinking and it makes you want to hug your family a little tighter.

If you love the kind of book that you can lose yourself in for hours at a time, without even realizing it, then If I Could is the book for you! 1. Buy it, 2. Read it, 3. Leave a review, and then go buy the rest of her books and repeat steps 2 and 3. Trust me, they are all equally fantastic.

Leslie Beebe says

Rene Schultz has done it again with with If I Could. She is a brilliant story teller that pulls me into her stories from the beginning & continues to entertain me till the end. Dani, the heroine of the story, searches for the truth about her mother's life before her immigration to the US from Romania. Dani's search takes the reader through her life & the effect that her mom's life had on her own. Along the way, Rene introduces her readers to the most lovable and realistic characters who help Dani tell her story. Dr Cal, from Rene's book Done Deal, reappears in If I Could and plays a major role in Dani's story. The things that help me enjoy a book are the story and the characters need to illicit emotions like love, tears, laughter, hate, etc & I don't want the story to end. That is the way that Rene tells all of her stories & If I Could is no exception. Rene's well developed characters entertained me the whole story while helping Dani sort out her life. I surely didn't want the story to end and I can't wait to see what Rene has in store for her readers next.

Jada Ryker says

Message in a Box

Dani's mother Ema Vaduva fled Romania before she was born. For the next 28 years, Dani lived with her mother.

After Ema dies, Dani finds a box. She must decide if she wants to find answers, or if she is content with her life.

When she decides to follow the clues to her destiny, Dani finds more than she bargained for.

Rene Schultz is one of my favorite authors. I've read her books over and over, because once is never enough to catch all of the subtle shadows in her masterful weaving of the stories.

MaryJane Rings says

This is a very poignant story of a young American girl dealing with grief and loss of the 2 most important people in her life. Her ability to grieve and face her difficulties is very well told. also her search for her Romanian roots and her mother's past. With the help of a kindly elderly neighbor, a young oncologist and her best friend, she is able to accept her mother's past and the hope for a brighter future . A feel good story with a realistic end.

Valerie Roberson says

I absolutely love Rene Schultz's real life writing. She brings out all my emotions and feelings. If I Could is one of them. Dani loose's her son to cancer and her Mother to a heart attack and she is left all alone with no family. She has her good friends and her neighbor Anton by her side, but it's not like having family.

As Dani continues with her life of working at a restaurant and at the hospital's pediatric oncology ward, life is a struggle. Dani is a fighter and will make it. Then one day she decides to clean out her Mother's closet and finds a box with her Mothers unspoken past. This makes her to want to find out who her father is and who she is.

Being adopted myself, I know how she feels. Her needs are strong and she even takes a trip to her mother's home land. Dani has a bad accident and is rushed into surgery. She needs blood, but there isn't enough, her blood is rare. But one person steps up with the same blood. After healing, Dani realizes that family isn't always connected to blood. Family is who loves you and is by your side no matter what.

O.M. Faye says

I am so extremely excited about this book--and proud of it as well.

Rene is the most amazing author and I am sooo blessed to be her friend and blessed to be allowed to work with her on design, etc.

Dani's story is straight from the heart. Dani and her mom were very close all of her life, and when Dani's son dies, her world starts falling apart. Her already shattered heart is flipped inside out and upside down when her mom dies not too long after. Dani feels all alone in the world--a central point throughout the story. When tragedy strikes again, Dani realizes, with all of her friends who love her, she isn't alone at all.

Throw in a great deal of mystery and a trip to Romania . . . :D

This book has got FEELING -- it has got GUMPTION.

It's got Dr. Cal from Done Deal! Holy smokes!

What more can a girl ask for?

LOVED IT.

Fiona (Titch) Hunt says

I was given a copy of this delectable book from the author.

I have read ALL of Rene Schultz books. I was wondering how she could top off all her other books with this 1, I wasn't disappointed lol. Not 1 has made me an emotional wreck. I have loved all the ups and downs of this wonderful book.

The story has such emotional feelings from a young woman who thinks she has lost EVERYTHING. But following her story and her ups and downs makes you think of life in general. I laughed at some of the antics the characters got up to. Had lumps in my throat at the sad parts. But all in all I LOVED and fell in love with the characters (someone even comes back in this book from a previous book).

Now to wait and see what book Ms Schultz writes next to top off this book.

One Messy Mama The Honest Mom Blog says

I received this book from the author, for an honest review.

My journey with Rene Schultz started about a year ago when I was asked to review her book Bishop Street, it had been a while since I had read something that stole my heart, but there it was. Since then I have been fortunate enough to have read ALL of her books, never has there been a dull moment.

Rene captures what the heart sometimes fails to recognise, she pulls you into a world where our deepest and darkest fears are realised and moves you into a place where peace and joy find their inner voice.

I have personally never been so touched by one authors words. Rene enjoys hearing what her readers think, she thrives to bring us what she knows we want and need to read. She has a personal relationship with us readers and strives to give of her best in each new novel. I feel privileged and honoured to be a part of her journey as an author. Best selling novels for a self published author is an amazing achievement.

"If I could" is a beautiful heart wrenching story about a mother who "dies" to herself to protect the only daughter she will ever have.

She flees to America in hopes of evading her past. Her daughter Dani is her most prized achievement, and as a parent one can totally relate to Ema (Dani's mother).

After the shocking loss of her mother, Dani stumbles across some startling information about her mothers past. She battles with the realisation that her heritage lies at her fingertips and should she pursue it?

Rene knows just how to use each and every character in this book, to touch your heart in some way. From Dr Cal, reappearing from her book Done Deal,(I just LOVED that)to the widow that refuses to let go of her family, to the old man who would give all he has to look out for her. I fell in love, over and over again!!!

A definite must read!!!!

Stephenee says

* I received a copy of the ebook in exchange for an honest review. *

If I Could is another amazing 5+ star read by author Rene D. Schultz! Each book that she has written has instantly become my favorite (until the next one comes out) and each one has a message, a moral and an eye opening experience occur that really makes the reader stop and take a minute to process, think and reflect. She is able to take the most upsetting, real moments that someone can experience and show readers how to understand that they are not alone, that there are worse things that can happen and that each moment in life is a moment that they should cherish no matter how hard it is. She is able to capture people's emotions in a real way and she shows others how to help them through. Every time I read a book by her I feel like I have learned something, I have gotten more than an just an amazing story, I have gotten advice, inspiration and at times an outlet for my emotions. I know, I know - that sounds weird, but read one of her books and you will instantly understand. Her books are a major source of inspiration to me. Her books are realistic, her characters unique and her storyline will leave the reader guessing right up to the end.

This story gives us Dani, Ema, Estelle, Dr. Cal, Stephen, Anton, and a world of hurt for all of them. You instantly feel connected to Dani and her friends and you want to make things better for all of them. Dani has been through so much in her life and she continues to hold her head high and support everyone around her. She doesn't give in to the depression, anxiety or sadness that plagues her and she is an inspiration to everyone around her. Dani is able to help her friend, Steph, make it through an extremely rough time and I could instantly connect with Steph. I could feel her pain through the pages and I could imagine exactly what she was going through. Rene was able to harness all of those emotions and make the reader feel like they were going through the grieving process right along with her. She offered insight and made the reader feel like Steph and Dani would end up ok - that they would make it through this challenge stronger and with a positive outlook. She takes tough topics and moments and makes the reader see the positive in any situation. She is so respectful and you can feel the authors emotions come through the pages of the book. She writes with love and it shows in each character, each sentence and each line of the book.

Dani was also a character that I could connect with - and one that I look up to. She was given a lot of obstacles in her life and she continues on with a positive outlook. She may not like what is happening or what the brown box may hold, but she never gives up and keeps on going through the good, bad and ugly. I loved that Dr. Cal is brought back in this story, as he has been in another book. It is always fun as a reader to see our favorite characters again and there are a few characters in this book that have made my favorites list.

The emotions that I went through as I was reading this story ranged from laughter to crying to yelling and back again - it is a roller coaster of a ride and one that the reader will enjoy. It also has some twists, turns, curves and loops that the reader will be trying to figure out right until the end. This book is an amazing book and it is a must read! Make sure that you add this book to your TBR list and it should be read soon! Make sure you leave yourself plenty of reading time because once you start, you won't want to stop! Oh and stock up on some tissues because you are going to need them! Enjoy this book and her others - don't miss out on any of them!

sue says

I had the great pleasure to be involved along with my book buddy Philomena Callan to read this as a beta. To have some input was fantastic in this story and I can't thank the author enough because she trusts us as we do her.

It must have been about 2 years ago Rene Schultz happened into one of our groups on FaceBook. She was very shy, bit lost, we didn't know if she was an author or someone who just wanted to see what books were out there to read, so one day, I messaged her, only to find out she has some books on her PC that were written, never published. After plenty of nagging [which we are good at lol] she said she would send us her book [that she didn't know if it was up to anything] to us to read.

Philomena and I started it together, I remember us texting, or ringing each other, we were so gobsmacked that this author had been hiding her light under a bushel, hence was the birth of BISHOP STREET to the reading world!

"if I could" is Rene Schultz 6th novel. I never thought she could better her first book, Bishop Street or her 2nd, 3rd or 4th, or 5th but her new one is another masterpiece. I kid you not, when I read this with Philomena, my reading partner, we waited until the end, then we talked. We were once again blown away by Rene's natural flair for bringing life into a story, she breathes the characters into your very soul."

A bit about the story

Daniela came to this country with her mother Ema whilst still in the womb. Daniela knows nothing about Romania apart from what she has been told. Daniela and her Mother Ema were very close, very close, so when her Mother died she was devastated.

Among her Mothers belongings is a box, its a box of all sorts of things which leads Daniela onto a world of discovery.

There is a lady at the graveside named ESTELLE a wise old lady, she visits there everyday. She's a very wise lady and brings comfort to Dani [Daniela]

ESTELLE brought me to tears at times, I could just picture the scene in my minds eye.

Rene Schultz puts so much of herself into these books she writes that you can FEEL it between the pages reaching out at you, it snatches at your heart strings.

There is a love interest among the pages that doesn't come out until later with Dr Cal, but picture this, she runs out to him in the rain [remember I said that, because I need you to look for that in the book when you read it and I promise you, your eyes will fill up and you will get a lump in your throat]

As you can tell, I am a big fan of this author. Phil and myself were with her at the start, and she will never shake us off!!!

Rene Schultz brings out something in me, not just my emotions, but also a warmth for all her characters she creates, they could be YOU or ME or your friend down the road. Its like they start off as a cardboard cut out and she breathes life into them, truly, honestly. As they grow and develop and gets individual personalities of their own you can't but help love them and for the time it takes you to read the book, they are part of your family.

Thank you Rene Schultz for trusting me to read another of your books knowing I will be honest no matter what, as that is what I do, I've not yet read a book that I could give the thumbs down to LOL, I loved it, I do believe this is ONE of the best books you have written to date

Philomena Callan Cheekypee says

Nearly two years ago I met this author online. My book buddy Sue and myself had the privilege to be one of the first to read Bishop Street. Since then Rene has taken us on a great journey with her books.

Ema left Romania pregnant with her daughter Daniela. As Daniela grew up her and her mum were inseparable. When her mum died Daniela found a brown box among her belongings. Opening this box opens a whole lot of her mothers secrets.

I absolutely loved these characters. Rene puts her heart and soul into her characters and that is shown in this story. I enjoyed this book as much as I did with Renes other books. She certainly knows how to give me goosebumps and open the tear ducts. If your looking for a brilliant story then I recommend this gem. Rene I'm so looking forward to seeing what you come up with next.

