



The Birthday List

Devney Perry

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Happily married to her college sweetheart, Poppy lived a blessed life with the husband of her dreams. Then everything changed. She is no longer a wife. She is no longer the envy of her single friends. Now, people look at her with pity as they whisper a single word behind her back.

Widow.

Years after her husband's tragic death, years of pain and sorrow and wishing for the life she'll never get back, Poppy decides to finish Jamie's birthday list. She'll do the things he wanted to most. Because maybe, just maybe, if she can complete his list, she can start to live again.

Poppy expects going through the birthday list will be hard. She expects it to hurt. But what she doesn't expect is Cole. Could the man who delivered the news of her husband's death and shattered her heart be the one to help her put it back together again?

The Birthday List Details

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Author : Devney Perry

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Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary

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From Reader Review The Birthday List for online ebook

Stacie says

4 3/4 "You carried me." Stars!

I loved this story. It felt really true to life (in a great coincidences romance novels kind of way) to me. Really bad stuff happens in life, but life goes on and really great stuff can happen too.

I absolutely loved both Poppy and Cole. Cole's last name was Goodman; and that was exactly what he was- a good man. So patient, kind, understanding, funny, authoritative, but not jerkish. And definitely not a pushover. He was not only good book boyfriend material, he was real life good boyfriend- make him your husband- material. Poppy was loyal and sweet and feisty at times. She was heart sick and struggling, but she was taking things "minute by minute". I really respected her. And I was so very happy for her. I enjoyed seeing them fall in love. It was the perfect slow burn. There was physical attraction from the start, but they got to know each other. They built a friendship first. Trust.

I have to say, I loved Jamie too. Getting to know him through his Birthday List made me want to know him more and miss him a lot. And so sad That his life was cut short by senseless violence. Imagined how much Poppy must have missed such a big personality. One other thing I liked a lot about this book was Finn's (Poppy's brother) and Molly's (Poppy's bestie) little side story. Real life struggles...

Anywho, I loved it. Happy reading!

NMmomof4 says

3.5 Stars

Overall Opinion: I was fully going into this expecting an epic angst fest, but sadly it wasn't that for me. I didn't shed a single tear. I'm not saying I disliked it, but those darn expectations hit again! I f-loved the H! I usually like my Hs obviously alpha, but I think he was absolutely perfect for the h and the situation they were in. He made the book for me! At times I wanted to shake the h because I do think it was *all* about her *all* the time, but that very well could be just because I loved the H so much and I wanted her to deserve him a little more. I felt like the story was more about the h moving on and healing more than a romance tbh, which wasn't my favorite. I wanted more time with them connecting romantically without the list dictating what they were doing! I wouldn't say that this is one of those books where the dead spouse feels like the third in a love triangle. I think the h was understandably guilty at times, but not so much it felt OTT. The H also was completely open and understanding that the h's husband will always hold a place in her heart, but that he had a shot at helping her heal and being a part of her future. Overall, it was a sweet story about healing with little drama and a great H.

Brief Summary of the Storyline: This is Poppy and Cole's story. Poppy's life is turned upside down when Cole informs her that her husband has been murdered. About five years later, they meet again when Poppy signed up for a karate class taught by Cole. Poppy's late husband had a "birthday list" that had things that he needed to do before certain birthdays, and she is trying to finish it in hopes of moving on. Cole doesn't hesitate to offer his help in getting the items checked off, especially if that means more time spent with Poppy. The more time they spend together, the more feelings develop and they fall in love. There is a little drama, some sexy times, and some sweet and funny moments...and they get a HEA ending.

POV: This alternated between Poppy and Cole's POV.

Overall Pace of Story: Good. I never skimmed and I thought it flowed well.

Instalove: No. Instant attraction after reunion for sure, by I wouldn't call it instalove.

H rating: 5 stars. Cole. Wow. If any of us ever have something tragic happen to us like it did for Poppy, I can only hope that we all can have someone like Cole to put us back together! He was flipping' amazing! So patient. So sweet. So understanding. Just Perfect.

h rating: 3.5 stars. Poppy. I liked her for the most part, but I did feel like she took advantage of the H at some points (but that might be simply because I liked him so much).

Sadness level: Low, no tissues needed surprisingly. I expected tears here, but the never came for me ?????

Push/Pull: Yes (view spoiler)

Heat level: Good. They have some good tension, chemistry, and scenes -- but not so much it takes away from the story. It is probably what I would consider a "slow bun" as they don't kiss for the first time until around 56%.

Descriptive sex: Yes

OW/OM drama: Yes (view spoiler)

Sex scene with OW or OM: No

Cheating: No

Separation: Yes (view spoiler)

Possible Triggers: Yes (view spoiler)

Closure: This had a cute epilogue and what I would call a HEA ending (view spoiler)

Safety: This one should be Safe for most safety gang readers (view spoiler)

Maria♦*Steamy Reads Blog*♦ says

➡Well, I'll keep it short. I wanted to take Cole, the hero of this novel, put him in my pocket and RUN!

➡ Seriously, I wish a Cole for every woman. lol He is perfect but not totally perfect. Know what I mean?

➡ If you like a romance story about healing after a tragedy and finding peace and love again, then don't hesitate and pick this one up. Devney Perry wrote an inspirational novel that has everything a romance reader should wish for. Well, except.. if you're really set on not reading about dead exes. But the author did a wonderful job with this book. Super sealed!

Elle's Book Blog says

Release Date: April 3, 2018

Genre: Contemporary Romance

Rating: 5+ stars

I fell HARD for this novel. Gosh! The feels! I was memorized! Devney Perry is a pro at writing small town romances that will make you swoon, cry, and fall head over heels in love. Her novels will suck you in, capture your heart, and make you believe in fate. I don't know where it comes from, but her words are pure beauty and a breath of fresh air. You need to read this book. It's now going to be sitting at the top of my list for favorite books of 2018.

In the Birthday list, Devney Perry is going to make your heart BREAK. But not in a way that will make you feel down and upset at it all. No. She is going to simply tug at your emotions and make you see that life- the turbulent journey that it is- is beautiful. There are sad moments, blissful moments, hard moments, and so much in between. But that moment where you truly find your other half. The one that will stick by you no matter what moment you are in, that make all the other crap worth it. She proves this in the birthday list, and breaths beauty through pain.

Poppy lost the man of her dreams in a moment of tragedy. It takes her 5 long and hard years to come to terms with her grief and she knows that in order to truly let go of the overwhelming pain that she needs to do something for her late husband. And that thing? It's checking off all his dreams on a birthday list. The birthday list is much like a bucket list. The only real difference I suppose is the emotion wrapped into the stuff that is placed on it. Now, while finding love again may not be on that list, it sure comes to her in an unexpected way. And that future she thought she would never have? The happiness that comes and goes? Well, it begins to shine again when she meets small town detective Cole.

Readers who want to FEEL something, those looking for a unique and utterly beautiful read that will take over your emotions MUST read this novel. It's my favorite of the authors work (even though all her previous novels were 4 and 5 star reads). I can't tell you how much it touched me because putting those feelings into words is difficult. But I can say that it's a beautiful story with amazing characters and a heartfelt plot. Therefore, I HIGHLY recommend it to you.

Berit??? says

4.5 Adorable Stars????5

This was my first book by Devney Perry, but it definitely will not be my last..... this was such a sweet love story with the perfect amount of angst, heartbreak, humor, romance, and steam..... The book made me laugh, it made me cry, and it left me with a big smile on my face....

Poppy was married to her college sweetheart Jamie the love of her life.... and then one day when running errands he got caught up in a robbery and was murdered.... Jamie was a fun loving guy.... and created a list the "Birthday List" listing an activity he wanted to complete on or before each of his birthdays.... it is now five years later and Poppy is still heartbroken but starting to move on.... she has opened a restaurant and now is attempting to complete all the items on Jamie's "Birthday List".... One of the items on the list is to attend a karate class... while at this karate class she runs into Cole the police officer who had informed her of her husband's death five years ago.... and there is definitely something between them but how can she dishonor the memory of Jamie?

Poppy was such a real and likable character... absolutely a girl I would love to go to lunch with... preferably at her restaurant and have a yummy chicken pot pie in one of those adorable mason jars topped off by some apple pie in a jar as well.... Cole was in a word perfection.... sweet, nice, patience of a saint, hot hot hot, muscles for days, not clingy, not controlling, not overly romantic, and did I mention patient and hot hot hot..... unfortunately there is no man like Cole walking around in the real world, he only exists in this book, and that's why reading is so wonderful..... The chemistry between the two of them was both hot and adorable.... I loved how Cole wanted to help Poppy complete Jamie's list (see what I'm saying no man in the real world) I also loved a lot of the items on the list it was so much fun especially swimming in Jell-O and the paint fight.....

Strongly recommend to fans of romance, with a sweet story line, and fabulous characters?

~~~ thank you so much to the author for providing me with a copy of this wonderful book ~~~

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## **Stacey is Sassy says**

### **Moving with the curves...**

*I started this review thinking 4 stars, but getting all these feelings down, it's a bloody 5 all the way.*

When I was younger, I swore to my hubby that he would be my one and only. For me, at the time, I felt like there was no chance that I could move on if something happened to him. Sorry hubby, but I think I've changed my mind. Don't get me wrong, I would be devastated, my heart would break, and life wouldn't be worth living...for a while. But, eventually, I think I would live my life. I don't think I would go looking for another love like the one I have, but I think there is room to love more than one person.

Geez, that's the first time I've admitted, thought and committed to that, and hubby, if you're reading this, love you to the moon and back. Heart and soul hubby, you are the best thing since sliced bread.

Are five years enough or too much time to grieve over the death of a "love of your life"? Is there a time limit before you can move on? Should a wife or husband forgo their own happiness (with someone else) because the person you committed to, is no longer living? It's such a hard question to answer. I think, deep, deep down, that if it's the type of love where you gain pleasure from your loved one finding pleasure, that they (and I) would want you to move on. Sure, if you moved on the next day, they'd probably be a little peeved but five years is a decent amount of mourning. But, then again, who's to say?

In this case, Poppy is still young, mourned hard for five years and was definitely not happy. *The Birthday List* was her chance to move on, find a little closure and hopefully say goodbye to the man she planned to spend the rest of her life with. With each item marked off her husband Jamie's list, she said goodbye. Some of the items were goofy, while others were a little naughty. Each time though, Poppy savoured while missing and wanting, the opportunity to say goodbye.

Then, one day, one of the items on her list lead her to a man, a man she would never forget. This man ruined her life...but would one day be her future.

Goh blimey, this book was **EMOTIONAL**. But, as usual, *Devney Perry* has treated us to an absolute cracker of a hero. Oh my lordy, Cole, was HOT!! Ok, he was more than hot, he was sweet, patient, loving and HOT, with a side-order of a man in a uniform (without the uniform because he's made Detective and gets to wear polos and jeans, seriously I think that's just as good as the hot guy in uniform...and now this bracket has gone on too long and I feel like a goose...).

Seriously, I really enjoyed *The Birthday List*. It was a little confronting because no person who's in a loving and committed relationship wants to face the idea of their loved one dying too early. What it was, was an opportunity to acknowledge and accept that life does go on. People die, make mistakes, learn from mistakes...or not, and you move forward.

This story is not just a look at life after death, we also get to see other relationships and how they live and die. I'm going to try and not get too specific, but there's one relationship that was as confronting as Poppy and Cole's. This relationship came to an end like a lot of relationships in this day and age. Making work a priority over family, separating, and then making a catastrophically bad decision, then learning to deal with guilt and the repercussions. I admit, I crossed my arms and tutt, tutted at first, then, as time went on, my view became a little skewy...iff. What was once a nail in a coffin sort of offence became a, maybe it wasn't so bad. I loved that this story made me think and analyse my narrow-minded views.

If you're looking for a good story, look no further than *Devney Perry's*, **The Birthday List**. She has again made me stop, think and realise that life is full of paths, and sometimes those paths are not straight. You've got to learn to move with the curves.

*Stacey is Sassy, received a complimentary copy of this story. The copy provided is not the final copy and may be subject to edits and changes.*

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**Megan♦\*Steamy Reads Blog\*♦ says**

***"The rest is still unwritten..."***

OMG... I fell in love with this story and I fell hard. I loved everything about it, from the all-consuming love story, to the heart-wrenching emotions that this story evoked, to the flawless storytelling and the unbelievable characters that brought *The Birthday List* to life. It doesn't happen very often when an author

and her stories live up to the hype. I had heard amazing things about Devney Perry's **Jamison Valley** series and after reading this phenomenal story, I now have the series waiting for me on my kindle. It doesn't happen very often when an author lives up to the hype and you instantly fall in love.

Poppy and Jamie are college sweethearts, madly in love and are set to celebrate their one year wedding anniversary, well that is until tragedy strikes. Jamie leaves one night to run some errands when he is murdered during a liquor store robbery.

Poppy, who was starting to get worried when Jamie didn't arrive home when expected developed a sinking feeling in her stomach. Then there was a knock on her door, a knock that would change her life forever. A uniformed police officer appeared to deliver the grave news, a young wife's worst nightmare; that her husband would never be coming home again. Little does Poppy know at this stage that the police officer delivering her the worst news of her life, might also be the man to save her life.

***"I wanted to do this for Jamie and let it go. Every day, I was getting stronger. I was getting back on my feet. I was starting to live again – for me. And until the list was done, I'd still be living for Jamie."***

Prior to his death, Jamie had started a birthday list, a list of things he wished to achieve by each birthday. Some activities on the list were extreme, some were silly and some were scary. Five years have passed since that horrible night and Poppy makes the decision to conquer Jamie's list and achieve what he never got the opportunity to do. This list becomes a coping mechanism for the grieving widow, and she hopes it will help her move on with her life, the way Jamie would want her too.

One of the items on Jamie's birthday list was to take a Karate lesson and when Poppy arrives at the lesson, she is not prepared to face the man who not only delivered her the worst news of her life, but also the police officer who stayed with her all night to make sure she was ok and to look after her.

Cole is the police officer that had the unfortunate job of delivering the horrible news to Poppy and he can't believe that she is standing right in front of him in his Karate school. He is drawn to her by unexplainable forces and has never felt this undeniable attraction and electricity towards anyone before. Cole knows Poppy feels something for him too, but will wait as long as it takes until she is ready to let him into her heart.

***"Jamie would have wanted you to be happy and have love in your life. And I think it's time for you to open your heart again to that possibility."***

Cole is the perfect swoon worthy hero who is a patient and understanding man with a heart of pure gold. I loved how he took his time with Poppy, gave her space when he felt she needed it and was there for her. He proved time and time again that he would move mountains for Poppy if she needed him too. I especially loved how he never once wanted to take Jamie's place in Poppy's heart, but just hoped one day Poppy would find room for him too.

*The Birthday List* was such a beautifully written love story that pulled at my heart strings big time and captivated me from the very start. This heart-warming story about love, loss, healing and ultimately giving love a second chance really moved me beyond recognition and showcased that even after going through the ultimate loss and grief, you can move on and give love a second chance by entwining your past with your

present and future. If you're anything like me and love your slow burning romances then I urge you to one click *The Birthday List*, because I have a feeling Cole Goodman will be melting hearts around the world.

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## Christy says

**4.25 stars!!!**

*The Birthday List* is an emotional, moving, and romantic stand-alone novel. I was drawn in to Poppy's story straight away and I loved it from start to finish!

Poppy Maysen has been alive the last five years, but she hasn't been living. Not really. She's still grieving the loss of her husband, Jaime, who died suddenly and tragically five years ago. Things have been hard for her, but she's trying to move forward. Things are starting to change for Poppy now that she's going through Jaime's Birthday List.

Jamie was a fun-loving guy and a free spirit. He had this amazing idea to make a Birthday List. For each Birthday, he had something big he wanted to do. Unfortunately, he never got to check these things off the list. Poppy is determined to honor Jaime's memory and work on doing those things for her. She's hoping that maybe, just maybe, she can learn to heal a little and move on with her life.

"I wanted to do this for Jaime and let it go. Every day, I was getting stronger. I was getting back on my feet. I was starting to live again – for me. And until the list was done, I'd still be living for Jaime."

Cole Goodman is the police detective who had the difficult job of notifying Poppy of Jaime's death. Though it's been years, he's never forgotten her. Cole and Poppy run into each other while Poppy is doing something from the list. For some reason, Poppy feels compelled to tell Cole about the list and he decides he wants to help. It's apparent these two have a strong connection and I couldn't wait to see what would come of this.

Cole is such a fantastic, stand-up guy. He has a huge heart and is always patient with Poppy. He gets what she's been through and is willing to wait as long as it takes for her to be ready for him. He also never wanted to replace Jaime or his memory and I appreciated that. Poppy showed how much strength she had by doing the list. I admired that about her. The two of them had loads of chemistry and I adored them together.

This story is one that touched me. It was inspiring and sweet, but had just a bit of suspense to keep me on my toes. It's a story of growth, healing and beauty. It was an all around great read. Definitely my favorite from this author to date. And can we talk about that cover because OMG it's beautiful! I loved the concept of the story and it's one I would recommend.

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## Harper Sloan says

Every now and then, a book comes into your world and touches something deep down that you never knew you needed. That, is The Birthday List. So much healing love, pouring from every word, I know I'll never forget a single page.

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## Christie«SHBBlogger» says

[Yes (hide spoiler)]

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## Alex ? says

### 3.5 stars

Very touching and poignant love story.

I expected to love it more.

I still clicked 4 stars, but I wish there were less issues, that bothered me.

No time and desire to write a long review.

I limit my complains to 2 points:

- they dismissed H's ex-gf too fast. They didn't really bash her, but I felt sorry for her. Big fat minus for the hero.
- sub-story with h's brother and his ex-wife. Ugh! Poor woman, they put her in bad light, made her a cheater and I guess she would be the one to grovel in the next book. And her 'saint' ex-husband had a gf at the end. I already 'smell' the plot of their story... Ugh!

It was my 1st book by this author. I checked all previous ones, unfortunately not my coppa. I hope there will be another one in the future I like.

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## Corina👉BookTwinsReviews says

The Birthday List by Devney Perry was the ULTIMATE love story. I was consumed by it. Entirely invested in this absolutely gorgeous story from beginning to end. It was PERFECTION!!! Beautifully composed, masterfully written, a heartwarming, sweet, and swoony story that is by far the BEST work that the author has written so far!

I'm incredibly picky. It's a curse, and unfortunately limits my reading experience to a few amazing books a year, and many more DNFs each month. Devney Perry has been someone I admired from the very first time I heard of her. Luckily I realized from the very beginning that she had talent, I just had to wait for the right book to wow me and knock me off my feet.

And The Birthday List was exactly that book. It spoke to me in its entirety. There was nothing in this book that I didn't love.

From the premise of the story to the events that brought Poppy and Cole together - this book had it all. The plot was beautifully executed, from heartwarming dialogues to a cast that made me smile and chuckle. Poppy and Cole's love simmered and grew with each chapter. They were a couple that worked in every sense of the word. iThey worked together to fulfill Jamie's birthday list. They also worked on each other, by giving space and being patient, as well as letting go and moving forward when the time was right. ii fell in love with the characters because they took their time. I fell in love with the author because of the way she handled this sensitive time in Poppy's life. II fell in love with a book that made me happy instead of breaking me.

I fell in love with The Birthday List!!!!

The author did a marvelous job in bringing two people together that were just right for each other. It's hard for me not to gush all day long about a story that touched me in a way that only a few manage to do. This comes from the bottom of my heart when I say, that this book was a LOVE STORY that should be on everyones reading list. I adored it.

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**Pavlina Read more sleep less blog♥♥ says**

<3 4 stars <3

This is my third book from Devney Perry and she doesn't stop surprising me each time I start a new book by her! This was a lovely, heartwarming and emotional story.

The love story between the characters was slow burn and sweet, I enjoyed it. Cole was perfect for Poppy, he was exactly what she needed! The story was told from both Cole and Poppy made the story intimate!

Even though the story was interesting and the romance was good there were parts where it was a little bit slow for my taste and this made me not to give it 5 stars. However, it was a beautiful story!

## KAS says

### 4.5 In A Heartbeat! Stars

What a swoon fest of a read!

**Prologues** .... how profound they can be. This one knocked my socks off, and made my stomach flip. Within the first few pages, I fell in love with the characters and storyline .... then I wanted to cry.

By the third sentence of chapter two, I knew the healing process had begun, and also knew without a doubt, I was in for one terrific read!

I went in totally blind, of course! Those of you who read any of my reviews know this is my preferred method. Once again, it was the best choice and I encourage you to do the same. DON'T CHEAT and read the blurb either. I am warning you it will ruin the experience if you do! LOL ;)

I am purposely being vague, but know this is very well written and is .....

The sweetest slow burn! A heart tugger! And captivating!

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## Mindy Lou's Book Review says

What a beautiful story! I'm gonna be one of the first ones to say that having a deceased spouse as a major part in a book rarely works for me, however what Devney Perry did here was just beautiful.

The way she wrote how Cole helping Poppy on the journey to letting Jamie go was stunning. I've never read a more perfect way to introduce a new love into someone's life who wasn't ready to let go of the last love.

Poppy has been mourning Jamie for 5 years. She knows she needs to get to a better place and maybe completing her husband's birthday list will help get there. Just before Jamie was murdered, instead of doing a bucket list, he created a birthday list of things he wanted to do before each of his birthdays. Since the police never found his killer, Poppy is hoping that completing his list will bring her some closure.

One of the first items on the birthday list was taking a karate class. When Poppy shows up to class, she runs into Cole Goodman. Cole is instantly drawn to Poppy. He's never had a woman capture his attention so thoroughly. Knowing that she lost her husband, he knows he has to tread carefully or he may scare her off.

The way Cole integrated himself into Poppy's life and how patient and kind and protective he was of her will make you fall so far into love with him. I can't stress enough how perfect the author wrote Cole's character and his pursuit of Poppy in this delicate situation. I was riveted! This is one book that will stay with me for a very long time. ARC provided by Author.

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## Dri ☆ says

★ 4 “minute by minute” stars!!! ★

**“I’ll take whatever you’ll give me.”**

Esse é o primeiro livro que leio da autora e estou encantada pela escrita dela! Eu gostei bastante dessa história, dos personagens, o ritmo e como tudo foi acontecendo no “tempo” certo, sem pressa e sem afobação.

**“Crying doesn’t make you weak, Poppy. Sometimes, it takes more strength to let go than it does to keep it all inside.”**

Gostei muito da Poppy e sua personalidade. Os seus medos, inseguranças e dúvidas que surgiram no decorrer da trama expôs uma fragilidade que nem sempre vejo quando esse tema é abordado. Acho que nessa parte, a autora conseguiu me deixar bem satisfeita. Acompanhar o florescer e crescimento da personagem foi bem gostoso.

**“His face drew you in with his chiseled jaw and straight nose, but those eyes were what made you stay.”**

O que falar do Cole? Eu só tenho elogios pra ele, realmente foi o personagem que mais gostei e que ganhou minha simpatia e adoração rapidamente. Impossível não se apaixonar pela sua determinação, dedicação e personalidade.

**“I’m just saying, you think he’s *cute*. From the look in his eye, he thinks you’re *cute* too. You two should spend some time being *cute* together.”**

??A forma como o relacionamento dos dois progrediu me agradou muito. Aos poquinhos foi ganhando força, se solidificando. A amizade, o companheirismo e compreensão do Cole foi essencial e tão lindo de se ver. Fiquei encantada e torcendo muito por esse casal.

**“Maybe I didn’t have to be strong enough to banish the pain away all by myself. Maybe being strong meant learning to lean on those who would take some of the pain away.”**

A autora através de sua escrita fluída, narrativa envolvente e gostosa conseguiu me cativar completamente. Eu simplesmente devorei esse livro e não consegui parar a leitura por muito tempo.

Apesar de ter muitos pontos positivos, um fator que me incomodou foi a quantidade de “coincidências” que surgiram. Eu não sei explicar, mas nessas situações em especial, achei que ficou forçado demais. Outro fator, é que eu senti falta de mais “emoção”, no entanto, creio que isso é mais culpa minha do que da

história em si. Não que o livro não seja emocionante, ele é, mas não na intensidade que eu imaginava e esperava. Como disse, isso é uma questão minha, talvez minhas expectativas em torno disso estavam muito altas e com isso ficou aquela pontinha de decepção.

Ainda assim, terminei essa leitura com um sorriso no rosto e com o coração satisfeito.

Foi uma bonita história de amor e recomendo muito!

**“Because of you, I wake up smiling. I look forward to each and every day. Because of you,” she took my hand off her cheek and pressed it against her heart, “this only has happy beats.”**

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## **KAT ? Kitty Kats Crazy About Books ? says**

**MY REVIEW** can also be found on my blog:

**KITTY KATS CRAZY ABOUT BOOKS**

**THE BIRTHDAY LIST:** Is a full length Contemporary Romance Novel by new to me author Devney Perry.

In the **‘PROLOGUE:’** Poppy and Jamie had met each other on the the first day of their sophomore years at Montana State, that was the day she had met the man of her dreams. Her future husband to be. James Sawyer Maysen.

On the eve of their one year wedding anniversary Poppy receives news that we never want to hear in our life time, that her husband had been killed. Leaving her as a twenty five year old widow.

Life from that day forwards life had seemed to have stopped for Poppy.

### **FIVE YEARS LATER:**

Since Jamie’s life had been cut so short Poppy has decided to work her way through her deceased husband's birthday list. The first on the list was to open their dream cafe, ‘The Maysen Jar’ which she had accomplished and was proving to be a huge success.

*My heart had been in pieces sine the night Jamie had been killed. It had taken every day of the last five years for the pain in my chest to fade to a dull ache.*

Jamie’s birthday list had become an obsession of his, it was his own version of a bucket list except it would be a birthday list instead of a list of things he wanted to accomplish before each birthday.

She’d also already braved skydiving, the next thing on his list was to learn karate. That day when she turns up for class she runs into Cole Goodman, the cop that came knocking on her door many years ago informing her that her husband was dead. Going through his birthday list and accomplishing each activity set out was in some ways offering her closure, allowing her to finally put him to rest and allowing her to say goodbye to

him.

There's electricity sizzling between them which Cole felt straight away which he's never felt towards any other female before and he's sure she feels the same way he just has to wait until she's ready to move on.

I really enjoyed the simplicity of this story, just a straight up raw emotional beautiful story of Poppy's struggle to find her ground after the brutal death of her husband. I would've liked to have seen the effects this had on her personally instead of the jump that occurred (5 years later) I just wanted to stay in that moment for a wee bit longer, to feel the build up of emotions of losing someone so dear to her heart but with the big jump that occurred I didn't get to fully feel the debilitating struggle she would've gone through losing the love of her life..

But where I did get those feelings was the ticking off of Jamies birthday list, so beautiful, so unique, that's where all the feels came rushing at me. Add in Cole and he was just the icing on the cake.

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**Patty Belongs To Kellan~Jesse~Lautner~Miller~Jack~Racer~Rafe~Liam~Prince  
Nicholas~Hayes~Simon~Gianluca & Archer says**

**\*\*\*\*\*4.5 STARS\*\*\*\*\***

{ARC Generously Provided by Author}

**My heart had been in pieces since the night Jamie had been killed. It had taken every day of the last five years for the pain in my chest to fade to a dull ache. Still, it was there. And after every one of my interactions with Cole, that ache flared. Because when I was with Cole, I wasn't remembering Jamie. Cole made me forget the pain.**

**"THE BIRTHDAY LIST"** is my first read by the amazing Devney Perry and it will definitely not be my last. I've got yet another author to add to my *"Must Read"* shelf. This story was simply **INCREDIBLE!!** It had a gripping plot, loveable Heroine, and one of the most amazing and swoon worthiest Heroes I've come across in a while. Cole Goodman is absolutely perfect, so much so, that I sighed quite often because let's face it, there isn't a man like him that exists outside the pages of this wonderful book! All I can say is that I see why there's been so much love for this author's previous works. If you haven't tried anything by her yet, this would be a perfect one to start off with.

Poppy Maysen was once married to her college sweetheart. They were deeply in love and unbelievably happy. But one tragic night before their first wedding anniversary, Jamie is killed during a senseless act of violence and life as Poppy knows it is never the same again. Five years have passed, and Poppy has not found a way to move on from her grief. She doesn't know how to let go and deep down she's afraid that if she did, she would be dishonoring Jamie's memory. After so many of her loved ones encourage her to pick up the pieces of her life and start living again, she opens up a restaurant. This has been a lifelong dream and it's one of the items listed on Jamie's "*birthday list*". Before Jamie died, he put together a list of tasks he wanted to complete before each of his upcoming birthdays. Tasks like taking a karate class, buying a restaurant for Poppy, skydiving, etc. Poppy thinks that if she completes all of Jamie's birthday list tasks that somehow it will give her closure and then she might be able to move on from the past. Early on in her journey to tackle Jamie's list she runs into Cole Goodman, the police officer that delivered the heartbreaking news on her doorstep that changed her life forever. She can't ignore the strong connection she feels towards him and it's messing with her head.

Cole recognizes Poppy the moment he lays eyes on her. He remembered how strong she was after getting the devastating news, and she hasn't forgotten the warm and compassionate man who stayed by her side in her living room until her brother was able to come and take care of her. Cole is stunned by Poppy's beauty and all he wants is to get a chance to be a part of her life. He senses right away that Poppy hasn't been able to let go of her husband and that if there's any chance for him to be in her life, he's going to have to take things super slow and does he ever! Cole finds out about Poppy's restaurant and conveniently shows up for lunch on a regular basis and the two form an easy friendship. He's completely smitten with Poppy and deep down she is incredibly attracted to Cole but is so afraid to let him into her heart because she fears that she'll end up forgetting about Jamie and what they once shared.

Cole is a man on a mission. He wants Poppy more than anything and will take her any way he can get her, and so he offers to help complete all the tasks on Jamie's birthday list. As they set out on this incredible journey together, Poppy's heart is starting to beat again but now it's for someone new, and yet she still finds it hard to let Jamie go.

Will Poppy wake up and realize that true love can come in someone's life more than once? Is Cole fighting impossible odds and how long will he truly wait on the sidelines for the woman who has stolen his heart?

Here are my overall ratings:

**Hero: 5++++**

**Heroine: 4.5**

**Plot: 5**

**Angst: 4**

**Steam: 5**

**Chemistry Between Hero & Heroine: 5**

**THE BIRTHDAY LIST** is currently available and highly recommended!!!

Amazon: <http://amzn.to/2ENlNr3>

iBooks: <https://apple.co/2n1oo6W>

B&N: <http://bit.ly/2DupsKN>

Kobo: <http://bit.ly/2FWFj2h>

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**Tijuana \*BookTwinsReviews\* says**

**5 “Minute by Minute” Stars**

***“This man took me breath away”***

That quote pretty much sums up this book for me. Cole is an amazing character and he now owns a little piece of my heart.

I loved every single little thing about Cole and Poppy’s story. Devney Perry has cemented her place as a force to be reckoned with. The Birthday List is thoughtful and thought-provoking. I felt all the feels and experienced the full array of emotions while reading. It’s a magnificent journey of love and loss that I’ll remember for years to come.

What I absolutely loved. The characters. Not only the main characters, but the secondary characters are all so well developed. I feel as though I got to know them. I was interested and invested in their stories.

Cole and Poppy are stunning! He’s pure male perfection and she’s one of the strongest female leads I’ve read. Both are very well written and fleshed out. They’re love story jumps off the page and completely consumed me. While I loved them both and Poppy certainly appealed to my emotions due to her loss, but Cole stole the show. He’s swoony **PERFECTION!**

The storyline, plot, and execution couldn’t have been more beautifully rendered. The pace is spot on. The

emotional triggers well placed. But most of all the writing is fantastic.

You'll hear no critique from me. I loved it! From the beautiful cover and story, to that amazing ending, it's sheer perfection! If you love heart-wrenching love stories with feeling, you have to one-click The Birthday List. It's UNPUTDOWNABLE!

### **Highly recommended.**

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### **Carvanz says**

Oh my gawd!!! This book! This absolutely beautiful, heartfelt book! There are really no words to describe how amazing it is or how it made me feel as I moved through the story. I am not a writer but it is at times like this that I wish I had the talent to express how incredible a story is and how it touched my heart and my soul.

After the death of her husband, Jamie, Poppy is struggling to find some closure even as she lives with the heavy weight of guilt upon her shoulders. Before his death, her husband made a list of things he wanted to do each year prior to his birthday. Taking the task upon herself, Poppy sets out to fulfill the list, knowing it may take her years. The first is opening her own restaurant.

Cole is one of the good guys. He believes in second chances much as someone in his past extended another chance to him. When he meets Poppy he is instantly drawn to her. He acknowledges that the look in her eyes is from a deep sadness and he'd like nothing more than to help chase the sorrow away.

Learning of Poppy's determination to check off items from her husband's list, he offers her his help. He hopes that along the way she will come to trust and rely upon him, smile with true delight at him, and dare he hope, grow to have feelings for him.

I have without question fallen irresistibly in love with Cole Goodman. I cannot recall another hero that has ever taken over my heart as quickly nor as thoroughly as Cole. His sole dedication once meeting Poppy was to help her to move on. And yet, he never expected to replace Jamie in her heart. He was so patient and caring, tender and giving. How could you not fall in love with such a man who's every moment was centered on the heroine in some manner?

Watching the strength it took for Poppy to move forward was inspirational. She may have started out broken but with each checkmark she grew in confidence toward a life that held hope.

There were so many moments that broke my heart before bringing the pieces back together assuring me that

these characters were stronger with each step they took. It's definitely a story of "incredible coincidences" that were completely believable. The secondary characters were extraordinary. They added such richness and texture to the book without stealing the focal point. While this is a bit of a slow burn, it was within reason and understandable. The journey this couple took could not be rushed. And I loved every moment of it.

If anyone should ask if you will be reading The Birthday List, your prompt reply can only be, "In a heartbeat!"

I voluntarily read and reviewed an advanced copy of this book. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

Dual POV

Safety (view spoiler)

No apparent triggers

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