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Giftchild



Synopsis

Penny adores her best friend Rodney. He's always there for her, and she knows they'd be the perfect couple except that they're still in high school, and she's watched too many friends go through painful breakups. Besides, Penny has bigger things to worry about like her mother, who desperately wants to have more children. After an endless string of miscarriages and failed adoptions, Penny's mother is ready to give up hope. But Penny has the perfect plan: if she gets pregnant, she can give her mother the baby she's always wanted. Penny's sure this is the right thing to do, but only after she sets her plan in motion does she realize that sex will change her relationship with Rodney in ways that she never expected. And the more she tries to fix things for her mother, the more she risks losing everything she wants for herself. All Penny wants is for the people she loves to be happy. So why isn't anything going the way that she planned?

Book Information

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Contemporary

Customer Reviews

This was a painful and a beautiful book. I'm glad I read it. Some books stay with you and make you feel like your life experience has been deepened, and your capacity for empathy increased. I found the book profoundly satisfying and inspiring. We all have real problems, and make real mistakes, and sometimes those flaws and mistakes are really whoppers. But growth and healing and compassion can come, and they matter. I'm glad to have discovered this author.

This story was like a high speed chase. I could not turn away and put the book down. The characters suck you in and make you stay with them to find out what will happen next. Great read! Thanks for another great story Janci Patterson!! I'm ready for Everthing's Fine.

I LOVED this book! This author is great at writing complex characters and relationships that are heartbreaking in all the best ways. Penny and Rodney stuck with me long after I finished the book. I highly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys contemporary YA fiction.

Patterson's stories always pull me in, and this one wasn't any different. Penny's story felt so true to life - the characters were real, their pain was real, and the twists and turns of their lives were authentic. Highly recommended!

I couldn't put this book down. I had to finish it! Great story idea, and amazing execution!

4.25 for quality, 3.5 for enjoyment
I was reading it in e-book format, which makes it harder for me to focus, and it's out of my preferred genres, but I'd heard it was really good. It definitely is. I read it in about 7 hours. This family is so damaged. There is so much heartbreak in this story; you could really feel for Penny and Rodney. Ms. Patterson has done an amazing job in showing the stress and pain caused by infertility, not to mention the confused logic that comes out of teenage minds. A big part of me wishes there had been two viewpoint characters
I would have loved to have Rodney's feelings on pretty much the entire story, and I could have used an occasional break from Penny's naval-gazing and controlling behavior. But overall, a great story, and I look forward to reading more of Patterson's work (hopefully in other genres than contempo-YA).

Janci Patterson's premise hooked me from the moment I understood what was going on. Giftchild is

a rare kind of book. It contains a strong romance, but also deals with serious issues in a thoughtful way. I love how much is broken with Penny and her family, and yet how much hope I feel that they will figure their lives out. Janci's storytelling is beautiful and poignant. And her voice is real, real, real. I know when I start any of her books that I am in good hands, and that the reading journey will pay off in amazing ways. P.S. Rodney is AMAZING!

Janci Patterson does it again! Janci is one of the few people I know who can write with such clarity, honesty, and insight about teens. We've all read teen pregnancy books. But deliberate pregnancy? And to fill someone else's needs? So much is broken about this main character, and yet you can't put the book down or take a full breath, because you're so invested in helping her grow and learn. And the romantic hero is picture perfect. Get ready for a completely immersive experience in a YA contemporary novel.

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