



## Strangely, Incredibly Good

*Heather Grace Stewart*

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On the day Cat Glamour decides to start an exercise routine, the last thing she expects is a modern-day Genie to pop out of her Wii machine. Unfortunately for Cat, her Genie is somewhat unreliable in his wish-granting capabilities. In a series of hilarious misadventures, he sends Cat to a castle in France and back in time 20 years in an attempt to solve both Cat's weight issues and emotional stresses. Cat's journey is one filled with quirky adventures, realistic love, and above all, self-discovery.

## **Strangely, Incredibly Good Details**

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Author : Heather Grace Stewart

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## **From Reader Review Strangely, Incredibly Good for online ebook**

### **Judy says**

This was the first book that I have read by Heather Grace Stewart. I love her writing style. The story flows so smoothly. Her characters are very well developed and after the first chapter I was totally engrossed in the story and I was so interested in the main character's life. (I can tell you I have read books that by the end I did not care what happened!)

This book has an element of fantasy and time travel, which I am totally okay with. (One of my favorite books is A Knight in Shining Armor. This book reminded me of that one.)

While the story isn't the first to have time travel and a hero from another time and place, it is totally new for me for the hero to be flawed and needy as the heroin. They save each other.

Katherine (Cat) had a tragic experience in high school that molded her future struggle with self esteem and her overweight issues. The story is based on that, and I think every woman will identify with Cat and love this book.

It shows you that what is on the outside is not who you are. It also shows that our self perception is not always what the world sees us as.

I was so moved by the story. I was so sad at times, and laughed out loud many times!

I truly enjoyed this book and recommend it. I have already started on the next in the series, Remarkably Great.

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### **Tracy says**

#### **If there is just one book you read this Summer, make it "Strangely, Incredibly Good".**

"Strangely, Incredibly Good" is one of those fun reads you can't put down. From beginning to end, this story is a delightful read that had me giggling out loud more times than I can count! Full of adventure, heart and humor, you can tell Heather had a great time writing this.

The main character, Cat Glamour is a woman we can all relate to on some level. She has had her ups and downs throughout her life but she doesn't give up. I know I would love to read more about her. She is one of those characters where anything can happen and you just know you want to be along for the ride. From Cat's sprightly 91-year-old grandmother to the handsome, well-intentioned genie, there's never a dull moment. Each character breathes a life into the story that adds up to one fantastic read.

The beauty of "Strangely, Incredibly Good" is that it carries you away with each turn of the page into this incredible world that Heather created. I'd say that reading it is like taking a mini-vacation of your very own.

Do yourself a favor and read "Strangely, Incredibly Good". Just don't be surprised if you find yourself laughing out loud quite a bit and utterly unable to put the book down!

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## **Carole Davey says**

### **Quirky**

Silly but cute. It's a quick read that will make you smile. I like a book that leaves me in a good mood.

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## **Angela says**

When I heard that Heather Grace Stewart was writing a novel, I was eager to read the result. I have been a fan of her poetry for several years and wondered if I would like her change of genre.

Strangely, Incredibly Good is a light, fun read; in fact, the ideal holiday book! With its mixture of magic, romance and reality, there is plenty to keep most readers turning the pages avidly. This short novel introduces us to the character of Cat Glamour. She is in her late 30s and has several problems in her life that she is unable to deal with. Her self-esteem is low, following a tragic incident in her teens and then an abusive marriage. To compensate for her unhappiness and guilty feelings, Cat has over eaten and become very overweight, much to the dismay of her two daughters. Her 91 year old grandmother is supportive, but Cat seems unable to turn her life around until.....

And this is where the fun begins! In a more positive frame of mind, Cat decides to try using a Wii as a means of becoming fitter. Imagine her amazement - and mine, I have to add - when a handsome young man appears from inside the machine and announces that he is a genie who has been trapped in the Wii. He is there to grant her three wishes and Cat is now his "Master". The rest of the story involves lots more magical events, which eventually set Cat on a different road.

To be absolutely honest, this is not a genre that I would normally choose to read, but I am really glad that I decided to buy this e-book. It was whimsical and fun, with surprising twists and turns. I enjoyed the characters and found it easy to suspend belief for the reading of the story. We can all do with some fantasy in our lives, I think.....and what a delightful thought: a handsome man stepping out of my Wii Fit!

I hope Heather continues to write novels, as well as poetry, as I am now a fan of both!

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## **Kristen says**

Unfortunately this book was not good. I was not a fan at all. First off: talking shit about someone because they are skinny and you are not, does not make you skinny (I know, shocker). Assuming everyone in a gym is there for fun or chit chat and must have no idea what it's like to be overweight is ridiculous. Saying thin people don't have to work hard or don't understand is preposterous. Guess what, once you lose weight, you look just like the skinny people you were making fun of, and then what? You think you get a free pass? You think you wear a sign that says 'it's okay, I'm not one of them?' NO. I am so sick of body shaming in general, whether it is people, movies, or books. So sick of it. Bringing someone else down does not bring you up. Of course, the book is much more than skinny/fat but nothing else redeemed it after that for me. I thought it

would be a quick, enjoyable, fluffy read. It was quick. I wouldn't recommend it or read it again.

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### **Elisa says**

In the interest of full disclosure, I have known Heather Grace Stewart for five years and consider her a good friend. I'm also a fan of her poetry books. So I was excited when I learned she was writing a novel, and nervous when she asked me to review it. It's difficult enough to be critical of a fellow author's work, but even more difficult when that author is also a friend. I already knew the novel's premise (and loved it), and we had discussed it occasionally during her writing process. Thus, I was hopeful that I would like what I read.

And I did. Heather Grace Stewart has written a romantic comedy that inspires us to leap into our fantasies in the pursuit of our hearts' desires. And yet, we come out on the other side willing to take fate into our own hands.

First off, let's talk about the novel's title. I loved it from day one. It's the kind of title (and premise) that made me wish I'd thought of it. Right off the bat the reader knows she's in for something fun and whimsical. Ms. Stewart's novel delivered on that. The novel balanced comedy with tragedy, magic with reality. As a reader, I was completely willing to suspend my belief and go along for the ride into the world of time-traveling, Wii-dwelling genies, and I delighted in doing so. In short, it was a page-turner.

Ms. Stewart also delivered on dimensional characters that were flawed, yet lovable. Cat Glamour has suffered the consequences of spousal abuse, emotional eating, and low self-esteem. And although she didn't have the a-ha moment I was looking for, she was a character worth rooting for, one with humor and support despite her past mistakes, and one who evolves. The genie (a.k.a "Gene") was perfectly imperfect, deliciously handsome yet quite fallible as a genie. As these two push each other's buttons while trying to resist each other's bodies, the reader finds herself conjuring playful wishes of her own.

Overall, Ms. Stewart has crafted a story with structure and development, and a resolution that will keep book clubs discussing and debating for hours. I found myself thinking about it days after I'd finished reading, proof that the book had gotten under my skin. As a novelist, I love when that happens.

As a debut novel, *\*Strangely, Incredibly Good\** is just that. Heather Grace Stewart is a storyteller, and I am already looking forward to her next novel.

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~Elisa Lorello, author of *Faking It*, *Ordinary World*, *She Has Your Eyes*, and more

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### **Kennyc says**

I just finished Heather Grace Stewart's *Strangely, Incredibly Good* and wanted to share what a great read I found it to be.

If you like a main character with plenty of depth, Cat is your girl. She's been through a lot and now finds

herself single and lonely. Her weight is rising and her self-esteem plummeting. Too embarrassed to go to the gym, she works out using her WII gaming console until something strange and incredible happens. Maybe that's where the title of the book comes from. Who knows.

I hesitate to call the book a romance novel. It's sexy and fun. It has romance, yes, but also fantasy, time travel and a steamy moment in a castle in the Rhone Valley of France. But the characters and their struggles are very real and you'll find yourself rooting for them from the first page on. Gram was my favorite. She's the feisty grandma with a twitter account.

I've read some of the author's poetry and also her screenplay, *The Friends I've Never Met*. Heather's work reads with an ease and a style all its own. It's current, funny, quirky, sometimes sad, and you'll remember it long after you finish.

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### **Sandee says**

I enjoyed this book. I liked the hero Cat who hides from life. I liked the story and the characters were all well-developed. What I didn't like was after Cat's life started changing. There were places where she seemed to forget her children which was very out of character. After that point the story was a bit uneven. But overall, I enjoyed it and will read the next in series.

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### **J. Dorner says**

The main character calls herself fat throughout the book. (In fiction, that is a diverse body type.) "The problem was, I just couldn't hop out of bed. That would require energy, and a sense of hope." That line speaks to the chronically ill, the depressed, the overweight, etc -- it works on so many levels. Later, however, she's able to do physical activities just by changing her attitude. Increasing her strength and dexterity just by believing in herself. (If only that worked in tabletop RPG... am I right? Ha!)

Part of the book, the theme in a way, is to find self-love. "I hate how society makes you feel that you are the size you wear." Quotes like that make this a riveting social commentary.

The book, published back in January 2016, should have a meme or two floating around. Eugene mentions how wishes aren't always used wisely. "Take Donald Trump. He never asked for great hair. He asked for great wealth." As I said, there should be a meme or two out there. Plus, later in the book, it mentions a genie probably being in the White House, catering to POTUS. Again, it's funny considering when the book came out.

Early on, the book makes one wonder who "little Logan" was. But it tells the sad story of an abusive

marriage long before getting into a moment in the past where everything could have changed. The book has a lot of flashbacks. It seems like it has a "Dead Man's Curve" cliche, but then it tosses in a twist to keep things fresh. I loved that about this book.

My very favorite part of this book was the description of the Book Mobile.

And yes, the grandmother character gives a real Twitter handle! Hasn't tweeted in some time, but still. I love that kind of authenticity.

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### **Annabel Krantz says**

This quirky, modern twist on a genie-in-a-bottle fairytale surprised me. I wasn't sure what to expect from a story about a man popping out of a Wii machine, but was pleased to find an unexpected story unfold throughout this short but sweet novel.

At first, I was a little worried about Cat throwing her wishes away on material things, and that the book was perpetuating the myth that skinny is successful. However, I soon realised that Strangely, Incredibly Good was curve-positive – enforcing the message that body shape isn't what defines a happy life. Cat lived a hard life before her Genie appeared – with comic-relief provided by her hilariously quirky Grandmother. Most of the story focuses on her overcoming her past troubles, but Stewart cleverly added a genie to the mix, which stopped this story from blending in with so many others.

I read the book in one sitting – it was the perfect light read, great for a day at the beach. Sure, it was a little cliche, and the romance between woman and genie blossomed a little too fast... but a happy ending, with a little magic thrown in, can never go astray You can get the e-book from Amazon for less than \$5 and see for yourself!

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### **Danny Brown says**

Theoretically speaking, I shouldn't have enjoyed this book since I'm a guy, and we all know guys don't read "chick-lit". Yet to call "Strangely, Incredibly Good" chick-lit would be limiting its scope and appeal - it's much more.

The main character Cat is one of these people you immediately connect with - her fears, paranoias, past mistakes and pessimistic outlook on a life that's been so hard on her. Then she meets a genie from inside her Nintendo Wii, and life will never be the same again...

"Strangely, Incredibly Good" has a lot going for it from the off. Great characters, humour, adult conversations, and a sidekick in Gram that lights the book up even more whenever she's around. While funny and biting, though, the book also has some standout emotional moments (chapter eight, for example, leaves you breathless with its prose and punch to the heart).

It's this kind of emotional swing that makes the book so enjoyable. We know that life is never perfect; we know we make mistakes; we know we chase often-impossible dreams. The fact Heather Grace Stewart captures all these emotions so well in her tight debut novel shows a writer who knows her craft and audience.

An excellent first book, and hopefully the first of many in the adventures of Cat.

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### **L.M. Justus says**

Highly entertaining, packed with humour and a dash of deeply moving moments, *Strangely, Incredibly Good* is a fun and refreshing read.

The premise of the book is hilarious - I mean seriously, a genie coming out of a Wii? Brilliant! I love Heather Grace Stewart's sense of humour, and she did such a great job of making the main character relatable. You'll laugh at Cat's escapades and cry with her too. The grandmother is a hoot and I absolutely loved her; she's so supportive of Cat, but also just... really darn funny!

If you're looking for the perfect light read to whisk you away from everyday life, I'd definitely recommend this book. Can't wait for a sequel!

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### **Carol says**

Wow, all my dreams come true. a genie in a bottle who can do magic things LOL  
Ahh, but the real life intervenes.. boo hoo..

Really enjoyed this story and look forward to the finale in the next book :)

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### **Georgia says**

#### **Loved it from beginning to end**

Who doesn't love to cheer on the under dog? From the tragic beginning s thru life's twists. This was a page Turner. I loved the thought put into how to turn this path around. Funny!

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### **Melissa says**

I loved the way this book took reality and fantasy and mixed them together into a really fun light read. Just the type of book I love and just when you think there will be a predictable ending, in sneaks a little unexpected twist...great summer read for relaxing at the beach but I couldn't wait that long to finish it...

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