



A Delicate Bond

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From the Windy City of Chicago to the exotic Seychelles Islands, JoAnn Hornak's second novel explores the complexity of female friendships. The bond that holds them together is often more delicate than we would like to believe.

Natalie is just seventeen days away from getting married when Lisa, her maid of honor and best friend of ten years, sends her a cold E-mail announcing that she will not be able to come to the wedding. When Natalie discovers the reason behind Lisa's sudden baffling behavior, their friendship quickly unravels. Natalie cannot believe how selfish Lisa is being, while Lisa thinks Natalie's standards for friendship are too high. Natalie and Lisa are soon faced with major upheavals in their lives. In the process of working through their problems without the support of one another, Natalie and Lisa are forced to face their deepest fears and failings. Each woman sets off on a journey of self-discovery as they examine what went wrong in their friendship and whether it is possible to be "too honest" with a good friend.

A Delicate Bond is a story that will resonate with any woman who has suffered through the painful ending of a close female friendship.

A Delicate Bond Details

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Elaine Fuhr says

Lisa and Natalie have been best friends for 10 years and as with most close relationships, that friendship comes with certain expectations from both partners. These two friends have done everything together and even with the addition of boyfriends who become fiances, their relationship stays the same. With their weddings just a few months apart, they spend every free moment planning together. Then three weeks before Natalie's wedding, Lisa notifies her by email, that she and her fiance will not be attending their wedding. There is no explanation as to why, just that her best friend and matron of honor has chosen to desert her at the last minute on the most important day of her life. How could Lisa possibly do such a thing and why is there no explanations for this change of heart. As Natalie's other friends and her family find out what has happened, many opinions about Lisa's character and ideas about why this has happened come to the surface. Not everyone likes or trusts Lisa. Natalie is so heartbroken that she tends to fall into a trap of sadness and believes that others may actually know Lisa better than she does. Sadness turns to anger and a pledge to find out why Lisa has done this to her, leads her find information that shocks her. Perhaps it would have been better if she had never found this out.

Lisa, on the other hand, realizes that Natalie, the most important person in her life, does not deserve to be treated this way. Her guilt takes some of the joy out of what should have been a wonderful experience, but she just didn't know how to tell her best friend that she was going to be away and the time never seems to be right. An email was the easiest and least painful way. She would have to make up for this mistake but she soon discovers that her best friend is not so easy to appease. Surely a friend with the kind of history they have should be more open and willing to understand.

When I first got into this story, it seemed like a typical romance, light and easy to read. But then I realized that author, JoAnn Hornak, has written about every kind of relationship within this one story: friends, family, guys and work relationships. She has included intimate thoughts and approached the topic of relationships with such sensitivity. The reader will find herself thinking that she has experienced these same feelings and happening within her own realm of friends, family and work. And that is where the strength of this story comes from. Please read and enjoy this lovely novel but be prepared to revisit past relationship memories. This is truly a well written and enjoyable novel.

Michell says

First Reads winner

Carolyn Keel says

I received this book through First Reads Giveaways and gave it to my granddaughter to read. This is what she had to say about the book:

This book really resonated with me because I am about to be a thirty year old woman. I can relate to the thoughts and experiences that Natalie and Lisa have. I can't help but compare their lives to the lives of me and my best friend, Christina. This was definitely a beautiful book.

Ellen Bauer says

I had the pleasure of reading this prior to publishing and I loved it. This women's fiction novel provides a thought-provoking look at female friendships, as well as a realistic look into the 30-something women's state of mind, doubts, and insecurities about men, marriage and the decision to have or not have children. I really enjoyed how the story unfolded through both Natalie and Lisa's first-person points of view, via alternating chapters, making the story far more interesting and engaging than if it been written from only Natalie's perspective. I liked that the story stayed both engaging, and realistic, as the characters each dealt with their own crisis without their friend, and as they did some real soul-searching about their own fears and faults. The story was even more engaging as it went along... I didn't want to put it down. A Delicate Bond would definitely make a great book club read. A Delicate Bond

Terry says

I was given this book in exchange for an honest review.

This is a story for every adult female. It tells the tale of why close friendships end. It not only tells it, but it gives both sides of the story. Something most of us don't get the opportunity to experience when losing a close friend too misunderstanding.

This story is about two ladies in their 30's, both in the midst of major life changes, marriage being the biggest change for both of them.

The story starts with Natalie, a busy small business owner with only weeks to go before her wedding, when she gets an odd email from her best friend and maid of honor Lisa that she won't be able to make it. Natalie distraught and confused with the news and the way she received it, does her best to contact her best friend to try to sort it all out.

This is the beginning of the unraveling of a dear friendship.

Both Natalie and Lisa made some bad decisions and judgments in the spiraling of their friendship and not only do they both suffer for the loss, but so does everyone in their lives.

Not only is this story about why friendship's end, but also about the amazing growth that we as women go through when we have this experience.

This book is not only a fun read, but one that I related to on a personal level, and one that I will be passing on to other ladies in my life. It is also one of the few books that I not only recommend, but can see myself reading again.
