



Wish List

Fern Michaels

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A brilliant movie career, two adoring husbands--none of it is enough to erase the memory of Ariel Hart's one true love. Back when she was plain, shy Aggie Bixby, a dark-eyed young man named Felix touched her heart. . .then vanished from her life.

Now, she's about to do something shocking and outrageous--sell her house and leave Hollywood behind. Making her new home in the quiet town of Chula Vista, she meets Lex Sanders, a wealthy rancher and breeder of Arabian horses. Ariel sees something familiar in his smoldering eyes--something that triggers long-buried memories of a love so pure and so perfect, it couldn't possibly last. . .

Or could it?

Wish List Details

Date : Published January 1st 2009 by Zebra Books (first published February 1st 1996)

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Author : Fern Michaels

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Susan says

Another fun read by Fern Michaels. It was a bit hard to follow at first but definitely had some intrigue that kept me reading. I enjoyed the storyline and always enjoy a good ending. Some crude moments and bedroom details.

Some unbelievable things happen but it is still fun to read.

Amy says

Usually I can read her books in a day or two, but this one was just... Not her usual. The conversations were hard to follow in places as it seemed to ramble on and they made thought leaps that seemed unnatural. The Heroine seems bi-polar, switching between maudlin longing for her lost love/ lost beauty and hyper "get it done" over-exuberance. That said, the plot was interesting enough and the tension between the lovers was well written enough to keep me plowing through. The last time I was this excited to finish a book, it was a textbook.

Ann Keller says

This book could have been a little better. Slow to begin and anti-climactic at the end. After the big climax, it trailed on and on. The center of the book was fine and I enjoyed the interplay among the characters, but the beginning and end both need work.

Elena says

Ok here were my comments as i went along:

06/01 - "Just started the book, so i'm not sure whether this is significant, but what sort of deadly disease did Aggie/Ariel think she had with symptoms like a face full of pimples?!?!? I really don't get it..."

06/01 - "Trucking company?!?!?!? Is this a joke?!?!? Why would a Hollywood actress do THAT?!?!? What moron manager would do this?!"

06/05 - "What is it with these books and portraying people as allowing dogs to dictate their lives?! Ariel can't go on a date because of the dog, can't have sex because of the dog...> would anyone let a dog control their life?! Demented..."

06/05 - "They are getting Hollywood actors to pick avocado and drive trucks ?!?!? Really ?!?!"

06/06 - "She gets attacked by the "evil" rancher, in the middle of the avocado picking and noone does anything to help her - they all just watch while she attempts to "kick his a*s" !??! Her boyfriend just stands by as she gets punched in the face?! Then, when she does "defeat him" someone yells "CUT" ?!?!?!? Were they making a movie?! What the hell?! And then noone explains what happened to this guy, or what happened to Marino... For Marino, they just say that he "moved back to New York" or something....why?!?! How convenient..."

06/06 - "She invites the dog into their bed right after they had sex! Gross..."

It started off very interesting, but then got sillier and sillier as the book progressed. Finally, it was very weird how they glossed over Ariel and Lex discovering who they were > the whole book was about this and then they just skimmed over the resolution?!!? You'd think they would make a little bit of a bigger deal than "ohh so that was you?! great, now we can be together 35 years later, no problem" ?!?! Anti-climactic... Also - she couldn't even get married properly because her dog was having pups > priest married them in the room where vet was delivering , as she ripped, soiled, and ruined her dress helping deliver puppies... WHY was this necessary?!?!?? Is this author dog obsessed?!

Lissa Wells says

Fern Michaels' books are always good for a cute and sweet romance! This one I do confess was a little slower than her others and it lacked some of the usual robust romance and the ending was a little far reaching for me. Ariel is a beautiful movie star , who at 50, needs to face the reality of starting over ! She never forgot her one true love in life and needed to move on! Ariel and her best friend and confidante, Dolly are given just that, a new lease on life ! Leaving her glamorous Hollywood life behind , she meets a sexy and wealthy rancher who is all so familiar!

Lori Hack says

Caution old bad rehash of a 20 year old book!!

I usually love this author. This was a terribly edited story of vain and shallow people in dumb love distress. Written over 20 years ago and posted as if new. Does not hold up and probably an early novel when she was not at her best. Dialogue was ridiculous and storyline even worse. Could not follow the story due to terrible choppy transitions but didn't care enough to try. Avoid your time and money spent on this one.

Suze says

WISH LIST

This is a very fun, silly read. The characters are great, the dog is precious. The only thing I didn't like was giving the dog hot chocolate and mushrooms, two things a dog should not eat.

Kathy Dough says

Wish List

I really loved the book, Wish List. One thing I wish is the curse words could be eliminated. Doing this would in no away take away from the novel; in fact, for those of us offended by cursing, especially by taking the Lord's name in vain, this would enhance the book.

Marnie says

Cute book! Of course Fern Michaels never seems to bore me. An older woman finds her once true love amongst having dama involved. Some parts reminded me of the sisterhood series. Not as treacherous though. lol

Sandy says

Not very well written. Jumps from one scene to next a few times without making the reader aware it is a different scene until you realize it doesn't make sense to be the same scene. Plus the story is kind of ridiculous.

Crystal says

I really liked this heartwarming story about lost loves and second chances, hope and fear, dreams and wishes. After reading Malice, I needed a light read with less heavy of a topic and I found it in Michaels' Wish List. From page one, I was drawn in by the honesty and sincere portrayal of the main character Ariel hart who is fed up with Hollywood and the false leads that go with it. In the voice of Ariel Hart and her maid/friend Dolly, women's issues are addressed with honesty and candor. Issues of rights for minorities are also addressed here in the voice of Lex Sanders, a rancher who knows the pain of discrimination and ridicule due to his ethnicity and heritage. This is the best Michaels book I have read since Yesterday with Mama Pearl and all her orphans. Highly Recommend!!

Jane Stewart says

The story was ok, but I didn't enjoy reading about a syrupy, sweet heroine who solves everything with her perky, positive ways.

REVIEWER'S OPINION:

The heroine is cloying. She reminded me of a Disney classic heroine (think Snow White, Sleeping Beauty,

etc.) She's beautiful, rich, and solves all her problems with her lovely ways, lovely friends, and positive thinking. It made me think of women in the movies prior to 1950. I felt the same way with another Fern Michaels book "Weekend Warriors." In some of her conflicts with Lex, Ariel acts like a petulant but playful child saying "no I don't want to see you," or "no I don't want to share my catsup." She just didn't appeal to me. Part of me wonders if a different narrator would have sounded less like a Disney heroine and more realistic to me.

Plot wise a few things were not clear. Both Ariel and Lex had hired private investigators to search for each other. But both were unsuccessful because they each had changed their names. It's common for movie stars to change their names. So why didn't Lex's PI consider this and discover Ariel's birth name? That bothered me.

We never learn who hired the hijackers, the details, or what happened to them.

I wanted to know more about Marino. We were never in his mind. If Marino was so smart, why would he hire the evil guy Chet Andrews? I wanted to know what happened to Marino at the end and why. His part of the story was incomplete.

Other than the Spoiler below, the rest of the plot was ok. Some of the events were interesting. There is a happy ending.

CAUTION SPOILER:

I was looking forward to the climactic scene where they each discovered the other's identity. I was hoping for something like the following. Lex would make a comment that she would recognize, for example he was born on a kitchen floor. Then Ariel would say "Oh my gosh. It can't be. Someone else I knew was born that way. His name was Felix." Then Lex would say "That's my name I changed my name." But nothing like that happened. Here is what we get: They've been seeing each other for a while. Then one day they each put on the wire wedding ring from their teenage marriage. It's like they psychically figured it out at the same time. Then they see each other and they don't even discuss it or say when or how they each realized it. This was a big let-down. (There was one earlier scene in which Lex started to suspect she might be Ariel, but he doesn't say anything. And later I didn't know what was in his mind causing him to put on the wire ring. I wanted more than this.) The biggest conflict in the story, and I was frustrated at the lack of details.

STORY BRIEF:

Aggie and Felix fell in love as teenagers. Her father was in the military and they moved away. Felix's mother was a poor Mexican immigrant. For a couple reasons Aggie and Felix were unable to write to each other. Later they each tried to find the other but it didn't work because they both changed their names. Aggie changed her name to Ariel Hart and became a movie star. Felix had a close relationship with Mr. Sanders who paid for Felix to attend college. When Mr. Sanders died, he left his ranch to Felix. Out of love for Mr. Sanders and to lessen ethnic problems, Felix changed his name to Lex Sanders.

Over the years, Ariel pined for Felix. She married and divorced a couple of times, but always loved Felix. Ariel is now 50 and wealthy. Her movie career is over, and she wants to buy a business. She's thinking of catering or a tea room, but her business manager buys her a trucking company. At first she hates the idea. Then she jumps in doing it her way. The first thing she does is redecorate the offices. Then she takes lessons for truck driving, gun shooting, and martial arts.

Lex Sanders happens to be the largest customer of Ariel's trucking company. Lex and Ariel meet and start

dating. They don't recognize each other, and they start falling for each other. Some problems happen with both of their businesses.

DATA:

Unabridged audiobook length: 9 hours 31 minutes. Narrator: Renee Raudman. Swearing language: strong, including religious swear words. Sexual content: none, other than one scene vaguely described. Setting: 1990s southern California. Copyright: 1995. Genre: contemporary romance.

Julie Barrett says

Wish List by Fern Michaels

Ariel is just about 50 when she realizes Hollywood has done its best for her and time to move on-the medical scare doesn't help her move on.

She buys a trucking company along with her lifetime maid and they proceed to educate themselves how to run it.

Men come into their lives and the relationships are interesting to hear about. Love the rescue dog that adopts her. Trucking business doesn't like having female bosses that they learn about firsthand.

Glimpses of her past life are given throughout giving us the full picture. Love who come to help her...

I received this book from National Library Service for my BARD (Braille Audio Reading Device).

Sammy says

This review is only for "I will."

It was amazing feeling the scorching heat between the characters in this tiny story. If I was rating only on the smut, I probably would have given this a 4 star. But there were two things that I did had issues with: the hero was far more immature than Lisa's usual heroes. Given time he probably would have grown into one Lisa's hot alpha males we all love to read about but he isn't quite there yet in this story. And going with this nuance is the imbalance of power in the H and h's relationship where the h is the stronger character.

Bottom line: I would have appreciated if the story was fuller with more character growth.

Ev Skiles says

Happy endings do exist! This one was the most adorable ending I've ever read, and because of it, I am willing to overlook the occasional stupidity of the main characters when they wanted to feed the dog hot chocolate (which is lethal to canines), when they gave the dog beer, making her drunk, and when Dolly took a bite of a dog bone and proclaimed it disgusting. Thank goodness this was only fiction.
