



## What You Wish For

*Catherine Winchester*

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Carrie Preston is desperately trying to stand up to her pushy family and failing badly. When her favourite aunt dies she retreats into her favourite book, Elizabeth Gaskell's North and South, only to find herself suddenly stuck in that story and seriously messing with her favourite romance of all time!

When Carrie's kooky aunt bequeaths her a pair of amethyst earrings in her will and says that they will grant her her hearts desire, she has no idea that she will end up in the middle of the 19th century, slap bang in the middle of her favourite book. With nothing but the clothes on her back and her rucksack, she is taken in by the Hale family and soon finds herself living in the dirty, smoky industrial town of Milton.

The only bright spot on the horizon is that she gets to meet the romantic hero of the story, John Thornton but it's not long before he starts setting his sights on her rather than Margaret Hale! Far from living her dream, she is appalled to realise that she is about to destroy the greatest romance since Elizabeth Bennett met Mr Darcy!

“North & South was like chocolate to her; her comfort food in literary form, a safe haven she could dip into whenever she needed a respite from her troubles or even just a distraction for a while.”

## What You Wish For Details

Date : Published October 19th 2011

ISBN :

Author : Catherine Winchester

Format : Kindle Edition 224 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Time Travel, Romance, Historical Romance, Fantasy, Paranormal

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## From Reader Review What You Wish For for online ebook

### Jennifer says

...please forgive me while I squeal\* All I could do the entire time I read this was picture my self kissing Richard Armitage as John Thornton, I LOVE IT!!! If you are a fan of North and South this book is a must read edition and addition through I did find that Mrs Winchester did slip into modern English half way through the book, about 80pgs in she started using contractions and more then a couple turn a phrases that would have been out of step for the time period. That said, eeeeeEEEEEEE! Love it!

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### Liz says

I think I really liked this because I had very little expectations and I haven't read the book it's based on. Sweet epilogue. Awful cover.

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### Caitlin says

I am sitting here not knowing what to write for this review...I could make it funny, interesting, actually write a normal review....or I could just get straight to the point. Yep I will do that! This book...wait for it...S.U.C.K.E.D!

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### Cintia says

What You Wish For; A.K.A., Fan Fic.

If you ever saw Lost In Austen, the British mini series about a modern girl who gets sent to the Pride and Prejudice world, you pretty much know how this book goes. Except that instead of being about Pride and Prejudice, it's about North and South. And that Lost in Austen was ubberly awesome.

I love fan fic and I do a lot of it myself, but I'd never publish it (I don't even show it to anyone).

This book wasn't perfect, obviously. I don't hate it either. It is what it is.

Yes, I was drooling for Mr. Thornton; but that's a given. I haven't read North and South, but I've seen the mini series and I know what happens.

The main character, though, she's like superwoman or something: she's independent, well-spoken, knowledgeable of various topics, knows about herbs, how to treat injuries, horse riding, karate, how to saw and mend, she plays the piano and teaches, she's an expert on jewelry... She's way to perfect. And the long monologues, that's so fan fic it's not even funny. (I do that too, but I know that's wrong.)

Anyway, how the romance part goes, it's everything it's supposed to be. Just you know, don't expect to be mind blown by the book.

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## **Rhee says**

### **Not bad**

This book needs a lot more editing. But, if you can separate the editing out and somewhat distract yourself from it being a variation of North and South, it's still cute .

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## **Dani says**

Other readers have compared this novel to the TV miniseries Lost in Austen and I can totally see that. Even though I have never read Pride and Prejudice, I knew enough about it to enjoy the miniseries. However, not knowing anything at all about North and South made me feel like I was constantly missing something while reading this book. Since it is not Catherine Winchester's fault that I have not read the source novel, I went ahead and gave it three stars.

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## **Alyssa says**

Carrie Preston loves North and South; it is "like chocolate to her, her comfort food in literary form, a safe haven that she could dip into whenever she needed a respite from her troubles or just a distraction for a while."

So when beloved Aunt Imelda, recently deceased from a battle with cancer, leaves Carrie a pair of earrings that will supposedly grant her heart's desires, it is no surprise that Carrie ends up in the fictional world of her favorite book.

The Hale family adopts her as their own (remarkably an easy transition, but I suppose 'Christian duty' plays into that) and even takes her with them on their move to Milton, where Carrie meets Mr. John Thornton (and eventually falls in love with him). Although Carrie believes Mr. Thornton and Margaret are destined to be together (as Elizabeth and Darcy, and many timeless couples before them), she cannot resist the attraction she feels for the man.

This is a great story, and I will probably read it again at a later time because I enjoyed it so much the first time. Carrie's a fun character with a quirky sense of knowing things most people don't. Although some people may not like her at the start because of a sense of spinelessness when dealing with her family, her spunk really emerges later in the story!

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## **Melanie says**

I'll could go on and on about the things I didn't like about this book, but instead I'll make this short and sweet: if this books sounds interesting to you, get yourself a copy of the 2008 mini-series "Lost in Austen" instead (heck, it's on Netflix!). The premise is the same (modern-day gal magically/mystically gets herself stuck in her favorite romantic novel and wreaks havoc), but this book just held no magic for me whatsoever, and Lost in Austen does it sooo much better.

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### **Kristen says**

Ok, it was really good until about 70% into the book when the author had to throw morals out of the window.

Carrie gets sent back in time to the North & South novel (LOVE THE MOVIE) and there of course, she meets Margaret Hale and gets adopted by the family. A little predictable she falls in love with Mr. Thornton, wouldn't we all though. She decides to finally tell him where she came from. And that's where it goes down hill. (Granted in the beginning of the novel you know she is living with her boyfriend, but there are no details there. And a few language spots, mostly OMG, and heck, dang & 1 "b" word.) So, when she is showing him things from the future he sees a pic of her scantily clad in a nurse's uniform with her live-in boyfriend hugging her. Well, he gets mad because obviously she is a wanton woman. She leaves, he digs deeper around in her bags and finds a box of condoms. Reads the description of what they are - description included in the story - and realizes she's been sleeping around. He confronts her about it and she argues back that surely a man of 30, he is not a virgin. Finally he tells her he's slept with 3 women, and blah blah blah. I fast forwarded a few pages and kept reading. In the end, he deals with his issues of her, they end up together, etc.

So, overall I wish I wouldn't have read it because now it leaves a bad taste in my mind of John Thornton...so not recommending it to anyone and I think I wont read her other two I downloaded onto my kindle.

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### **Laura Rejón says**

I have always loved time-travel through classics. As the author warns in the first pages, this is notba book that will change your life or a masterpiece, just a book to entertain. In general the book fulfils its aim, so I will only comment two aspects that did not satisfy me. First, Margaret's character is quite unsufferable at times, in Gaskell's novel there are times in which I want to hit her for being so stubborn and close-minded, but this book my patience is beyond that. Second, the I-love-you-I-reject-you relationship that Cassie and Thornton share is at some points irritating and exaggerated, but it makes the book interesting to the end, and Mr. Thornton with a computer will be a historical image for me ?

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### **Luisa says**

Overall a pleasant read and an original plot: who wouldn't want to meet their favourite character of their favourite book???? I would have liked more descriptions of places and people (who hasn't read North and South can't imagine what any of the characters look like).

A few misspellings and at times the name of Margaret instead of Carrie's but with another prrof read it can be easily corrected.

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### **Hayat says**

**4.5 delicious sticky chocolatey stars**

I'm so glad I didn't pay the slightest attention to the mixed reviews about this book because this story is a happy little gem full of sweet familiarity, some fresh modern ideas, colour, spice and everything nice and I'm so glad I took a chance on it.

I chose this book on a whim, what with a cover like that I didn't have a lot of expectations and yet I was pleasantly surprised. Ms Winchester's wish fulfilment version of Elizabeth Gaskell's North and South was a pleasure to read and I enjoyed the hell out of all the humorous moments. She has managed to stay true to a lot of the original elements of the story while adding little changes to fit the new elements and in my opinion, she did it well. Ms Winchester has a knack for adding a little bit of spice and passion to an old and beloved story while keeping the romance believable, lively and clean. And somehow, the odd pairing really works.

All I can say is that I'm so happy I've finally found a 21st century woman who behaves and thinks like a woman of her time. Carrie Preston can be a little dull at times but she definitely outshone a lot of time travelling ninnies and other TSTL heroines. Carrie is brave, intelligent, insightful and yet she has her own faults too because at times she can be a little naive, a little headstrong and is not as well informed as she thinks. But all of this just makes her character well-rounded, believable and even likeable. And as it turned out, Carrie is not just a fill in for the real heroine Margaret Hale, at least as far as this book is concerned.

John Thornton is a lot like the original character and just as swoon worthy and...Dare I say it...I find him even more alluring than the Original hero! Yes, those words might sound a bit sacrilegious but it is true. He is everything you'd want in a hero and more. John had me when he decided to answer Carries challenge about the magic number and he was even humble about the subject. You'll need to read the book to understand it. I've never come across a hero who clearly understood society's double standards and especially when it applied directly to him. Both the hero and heroine were perfect for each other.

There were moments of doubt when I was sure about how Ms Winchester was going to resolve all the issues but She came through and managed to smooth over and expertly solve a lot of issues. The epilogue was a perfect touch. I enjoyed seeing all the changes that took place in ten years and it was beautiful and delicious like a yummy dessert with a gooey centre. And just like any chocolate lover I didn't want it to end. I was left wanting more!

**“North & South was like chocolate to her; her comfort food in literary form, a safe haven she could dip into whenever she needed a respite from her troubles or even just a distraction for a while.”**

I wanted romance and a bit of wish-fulfilment fantasy with intelligent, likeable characters and all within a satisfying storyline. Yup, I was asking a lot and yet I didn't expect to find it here but I'm so glad I did. Ms Winchester has certainly surprised me and I'll be happy to check out some of her other book.

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### **Poli says**

What compelled me to purchase this book was it's connection to Gaskell's "North and South" which is one of my favourite stories ever.

What makes me like it to much is not just the great love story, but also the conflict between masters and workers (Nicolas represents the workers' side of the coin as strongly as John does for the masters) thus it is truly a shame to have him seen in a dimer light here. Besides Margaret's growth from a prejudiced young woman to a enlightened young lady with a mind of her own is endearing to follow, yet that doesn't happen here.

Why? Maybe because if we'd followed Margaret's character development she'd overshadow the heroine of this story and this is supposed to be a fresh perspective on the story not retelling it, so we only know Margaret has changed the way she sees Milton's people right at the end.

Also I have read plenty of books where the heroine runs from love because she fears to be hurt. I wanted something more. I wanted a heroine who went back in time but could somehow return to the present to fight for what she truly wanted to do with her life, with or without her family's support.

Sure she could have fallen for J.T., (who amongst us didn't fall for the character a little?) he could even have been torn between the newcomer and Margaret (in my view it surely isn't impossible to love more than one person at the same time), but in the end she would return to 2011 to take hold of her life and live it just as she wished to (just as her hunt had done). Its last scene could even be an encounter between her and a modern version of J.T.

As it is, it just reminds me of a film where a modern day girl has a door in her toilet which take her to Jane Austin's "Pride and prejudice" realm and ends up getting Mr. Darcy. Whoever wrote the script was clever though, they put Liz's character into the future which I think we can all see.

Oh well, maybe next time...

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### **Em Chainey (Bookowski) says**

Lost in Austen tarz? kendince fena de?il ama ben pek sevemedim. I?leyi? basitti ve kahramanlar?mizi farkl? gostermesi sebebiyle benden pek iyi puan alamadi.

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### **Sara says**

I enjoyed this book a lot. I have not read NORTH AND SOUTH by Elizabeth Gaskell, but I will now. I love a good time travel story especially with unique twists in stories that change circumstances and everything goes wrong. Carrie is such a strong, confident character. I love John Thornton. I wondered how he would react when he learned Carrie's secret. I want to read more of Catherine Winchester's books.

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