



Cathy Jackson

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We had come so far from when we first met. She would shy away from me, from my touch. Her husband, Charles, both mentally and physically abused her.

With his death, Phoenix could finally heal and start blooming. I try not to show the hurt I feel when she sees Charles when she looks at me. I am her husband now and the care and devotion I have for her will win her to me.

I hope...

Blossom Details

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Author : Cathy Jackson

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From Reader Review Blossom for online ebook

Arijana Peji? says

Yeah, she did it again! This lady gets to me every single time!

I wish you could all feel how calm i am while reading Cathy's books. I swear it's like i'm in the trans and everything is calm, pure and beautiful.

I will keep this review short, cause i read somewhere that short reviews sell books! Well Cathy, i hope you sell a million copies and that million people can feel as i feel right now!

Trust me, you won't regret reading this book! Every emotion that i ever felt and maybe didn't even know that i posses, came alive while reading this!

Thank you Cathy, for trusting me enough and allowing me to get ARC for this wonderful book!

If i could, i would rate this with 965699696 stars!!

Lady Living In Bookland says

I was so excited to read this novella after loving Bloom after reading it last year...it blew me away. The sad story of Phoenix and her troubled past with an abusive husband. But this novella was just beautiful. Through the journal of John Westerling we hear how the pair get married and we see the cracks of a pair having to relive Phoenix and her past. How she struggles to let her new husband love her and be with her after all the hurt she has faced. But how different a man John is.

Their love of god astounded me and despite not being an overly religious person it did touch a chord for me. She accepted not one man on her honeymoon but two. John and her faith in God.

The patience, understanding and pure love just rolls of this book. And I couldn't put it down. We truly see the once damaged Phoenix bloom, as a woman, a wife and a mother. I want to keep this as spoiler free as I can so that you will all one click and enjoy but I certainly did.

It melted my heart and had me blubbering throughout!

Another truly incredibly heartwarming boom from the talented Cathy Jackson.

Read and reviewed by Susan on behalf of Ladies Living in Bookland

Link: <http://www.ladieslivinginbookland.co....>

Rebecca Larsen says

5 Stars

An emotional story about finding faith and hope, while learning to love and trust someone.

Phoenix came from an abusive marriage. After the death of her husband, she met John. This story starts out at Phoenix and Johns wedding, and will suck you right in to all of the emotions Phoenix goes through.

Well wrote, with great character interaction. I would highly recommend this book to everyone.

Ella says

Blossom is the second book Westerlings books. Phoenix first marriage was to a horrible man. So when he dies and John took their friendship to a deeper level Phoenix had issues with being close to and trusting men again.

This book begins right after they get married. John's patients with Phoenix's hesitations is amazing, he is willing to give her the space she needs while also encouraging her to take baby steps. While on their honeymoon they are adjusting to dealing with the shadow of her ex-husband and her trust issues with men. During the book you can see the growth in their relationship and her growth as a wife and mother. Also seeing John's faith in God she also gets a closer relationship to Him.

This book show how one bad seed can change you growth in life. Love can heal a lot of wounds and when you have God's grace with a good support system you might have the hope of being who you were meant to be.

Although the this book is a part of a series, you could read as a standalone, but would get more out of it if you read Bloom first.

Patricia says

This book starts right after John and Phoenix's wedding. Phoenix has come a long way but still is not comfortable with John and well everyone. They head off to their honeymoon. Where while John is so in love with his wife that he will do anything and I mean anything to help her come into her own. Even if it means doing something that he doesn't want to do.

I fell in love with Phoenix in the first book and in this book I fell for her even more. She is such a broken fragile woman who has come a long way. But the violence of her past is still there haunting her. You see her struggle and heal as you read the book. You will also fall in love with John all over again also. He is such a sweet and loving man. The man you really want to take home to mom. He is gentle, loving , sweet and kind . He would do anything for the person that he loves . But he does have a few insecurities of his own. He does the ultimate thing to help his wife. They grow as a couple and grow as individuals in this book. They do find their happiness .

The author takes us on a journey of healing and hope. What someone you love would do to help you heal. I

did do a bit of crying through this book. Like all of Cathy's books , tears will be shed both happy and sad. She writes with a passion that will take your breath away. Her characters are so well written and honest. They make you love them . Cathy writes with such care and love, She will take you to an area in your heart where you will laugh and cry . You can feel it as you read, the passion and the love she has for what she writes. This is a book of love, redemption and what would you do for the person you love to help them heal. So if you want to read a sweet series check it out . I know you won't be disappointed

Ebbie ~Author Groupies says

Blossom is the second book in the Bloom series. It begins on Phoenix and John's wedding day. The reader gets to experience the honeymoon through the eyes of both Phoenix and John. Due to all of her past abuse, Phoenix is scared of the honeymoon and what John will do to her. She has to learn that John is nothing like Charles. Will she be able to overcome all of these issues and be able to give herself fully to her new husband?

This book's title was perfect. We get to watch Phoenix blossom as a person, Phoenix and John blossom as a married couple and also blossom as a family. I loved getting inside Phoenix's head and her dreams that lead her to open up to John and also to God. This is a great Christian romance novel. I loved watching Phoenix grow as a person and come to terms with what Charles had put her through. I was overjoyed that Phoenix, John and Anna get their HEA as a family.

I loved getting to know the other members of John's family. His mom and dad seemed like the perfect parents and grandparents. Of course he had a brother that was troublesome and seemed lost. I can't wait to learn more about him and why certain events happened on Christmas Day. I'm hoping this loose end will be tied up in the next book, Broken. I did really enjoy reading Blossom and would recommend it to anyone looking for an uplifting romance story. I look forward to reading the next book in this series.

Paige says

I received a copy of this book in exchange for sharing my fair and honest opinion

Having not read the first book in this series, I was afraid I would be lost when reading the story. I had been told it was a standalone, so I decided to give it a go. The characters in this story, the way the book started, it just pulled me right in - I couldn't stop reading. This author definitely knows how to start a book, and the character development, like I mentioned, was just outstanding.

The heroine in this book had been through so much, having had an abusive husband. You really truly see her just, well, *blossom* as a person throughout the book. I could go on and on, but I'm just afraid I'll spoil the book. All I can say is, not only do I recommend this, I can't wait to read Bloom! Cathy Jackson is an author I will be keeping my eye on!

Tabitha Ormiston-Smith says

A realistic and moving account of a woman's recovery from devastating abuse, *Blossom* follows protagonist Phoenix Westerling through the first days of her marriage. The central question is whether, after surviving the kind of abuse that makes tabloid headlines, she will be able to make a success of marriage to a normal, decent man, and at times we fear she will not.

Jackson has a firm command of where her book is going, and one doesn't lose sympathy for poor, scarred Phoenix through her devastating flashbacks, her visions and finally her crystallisation as a Christian and a fulfilled wife and mother. The action progresses calmly and steadily towards its end, and the calm flow of the narrative reflects the calm, patient John, as he nurses his damaged wife through her adjustment to a normal marriage and the dangers to her sanity posed by her former experiences.

A happy book, with a message of hope to abuse survivors.

Laura says

Phoenix Halyn endured a lot of abuse at the hands of her husband Charles. One day she met John Westerling. John was a gentle man who showed Phoenix kindness. After the death of her husband, Phoenix and John began a friendship which developed into something more. John showed her true love and was good to her. Phoenix loved Anna, John's daughter from another marriage. Phoenix felt happy but was still dealing with her own demons. They got married and spent their honeymoon at a nice resort. Phoenix was nervous about consummating the marriage. All she had ever known was pain and fear when it came time to be intimate. John was very patient with Phoenix though and soon they worked through all her demons and fears. She found strength through prayer and the Lord. Phoenix had been through a lot but she found John and along with his love and faith, she began to heal.

I am a big fan of having faith, overcoming odds, and happily ever afters. This story has all of the above. The overwhelming emotions the author put into the book was definitely felt by me. There were some parts in the book that had me in tears. Some were tears of sadness and some were tears of happiness. I read the first book and enjoyed it immensely. I was looking forward to this one and Cathy Jackson didn't disappoint. I enjoyed this one as well. It gave me the feels. I give this 5 books!

Raynell says

Immensely intrigued and captivated.
It begins from an entry in John's journal.

“From the Journal of John Westerling November 20th My Wedding Day”

“If I hadn't listened to Him, I wouldn't be standing here. The hand in mine was so trusting. The body belonging to it was mine, as mine was now hers. The smile on her beautiful face was almost too much for me to behold. I know what the angels must look like as I looked to my new wife.” (John)

Phoenix and John take a short honeymoon. Phoenix is internally struggling with herself. She is afraid of

herself. John is patient and just wants to help her let go of the strongholds from the past. Vanquish the darkness with the night so she no longer needs to hide in fear. Phoenix had no concept of what love was until she met John.

“ I love you. There will be many demons we will have to face together and I want to slay them with you.”
(John)

Phoenix’s history was pure mental, emotional and physical abuse from the day she married her now deceased husband Charles. What Phoenix assumed to be love was a farce. She tried to repress, conceal and bargain with herself, but failed. Love just continued to deceive. She put on a façade, but slowly fear would reappear consume and wash right over her again. It almost drove her insane and in due course love guided her back to John.

When John enters her life and shows her unconditional love. Phoenix struggles to comprehend and accept John’s love. All John wants to do is colour her in with love and heal Phoenix.

“Come let me love you, come let me take this through the end, come let me in.” (Colour me in - Damien Rice)

Phoenix believed herself to be broken, defective, sad, scarred and worthless. Her thoughts were John deserved more and now she was married to him. It pained her more than any pain she had every experienced.

“ My Phoenix. I love you. I love your scars and your life. You are everything I need. Absolutely everything.”
(John)

They needed a chance and it presented itself.

“When I proposed to you on your front porch, even though you said you had to think about it, I was already married to you in my heart. It was because I had already betrothed myself to you. So yes, my love I was already your husband. “ (John)

Just give me a reason
Just a little bit's enough
Just a second we're not broken just bent
And we can learn to love again
It's in the stars
It's been written in the scars on our hearts
We're not broken just bent
And we can learn to love again
“Just Give Me a Reason”- Pink

Finding the “One” that is patient, kind, loves you unconditionally and will do anything to see you through everything; accepting you. One day someone is going to find you and mend all your broken pieces together.

God had a different plan; Hope.

“ A small measure of it can spread through your life and the lives of all those around you. It is my gift to you.” (The Man from her dreams, God)

At times, Our choices in life delay our true purpose in life as we have seen with John and Phoenix. God

already had a plan for them, but because of choices; free will darkness stepped in and attempted to interfere with God's plan. God brought her home and surrounded her with pure love, which had been absent in her life.

"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins."

"Before now I knew that verse but not as intimately as I do now. It's been two days since Phoenix and I said, "I do." My wife is more than I could ever hope for and more than I deserve. I thank God for her every day." (John)

Love conquers and heals all wounds. Phoenix was finally able to feel and know true love. She was home and free of all the bondage of darkness. Only light existed in her life with John and Anna.

"The scars are... Those are badges of honor, Love Bug. Sometimes bad things happen to very good people. Those people wear the badges of how they survived through the fire. Then they are reborn someone new. In Greek mythology, the phoenix was a unique bird that lived in the Arabian Desert. It would burn itself on a funeral pyre and rise from the ashes with renewed youth to live through the cycle. Reborn." (John)

I am a firm believer of Everything happens for a reason in life. .

Author's storyline is creative and imaginative, and captures the reader. Jackson brilliantly entwined each chapter to a song. Powerful, emotional, heart-breaking story. As soon as I finished reading this novel, went online and purchased Bloom. First book by author Cathy Jackson I've read and the beginning of many more. A review copy of this book was provided by Author.

Ebook purchased on Amazon.

Karen Voitik says

>Book Review – Blossom -

>I am an independent reviewer. This is the second story in the Bloom Series and continues with their HEA.

>This novella takes place as Phoenix and John are heading to their honeymoon. Due to all the prior abuse that Phoenix suffered at the hands of her first husband, there are quite a few stumbling blocks to their shared intimacy and her ideas as to how a wife must act. The trust between them needs to be built up. John is very patient. I thought it was such a great idea to just try and get Phoenix used to looking at him and not pushing for more. These baby steps didn't destroy all her demons, but at least intimacy was between them.

>There were a lot of flashbacks to help the reader get into the head of Phoenix. She would have looked selfish and uncaring if we were not privy to her thought process and how she was "trained" to react. I was a little confused by John's scene of tough love at the inn. I know it ultimately brought them closer, but I was unprepared for it and it seemed out of character and harsh.

>The dreams Phoenix had were both heartbreak and wonderful. Her dreams of her first husband's abuse and John coming on scene to take her away were inspiring. The dreams of the strange man who she felt calm and cared for by were tear jerking. The man is Jesus and he explains why bad things happen to good people and how our free will can mess up his perfect plans until his plan B, C, D..... Is needed.

>I love how the dreams made Jesus real. I loved how John knew what was going on and helped her to pray

for herself. The family togetherness, with Anna, was so precious to read and imagine. When Phoenix tells Anna her secret first at the end, I almost lost it. How special Anna must feel.

> The extended family dynamic was way too short. I enjoyed meeting John's mom, dad and brothers. I would like to see more of them and how Phoenix reacts around them. I know that Jonathon was the wild child, but when he comes to Christmas, John and David immediately move to a "protect the women" stance. There was no mention of him being abusive to anything but alcohol. When Jonathon proves that women do need to be protected from him. I was confused. Does he just want what John has? Their mom really has 2 sons, John and Jonathon and that wasn't confusing? Just a strange tidbit I just noticed!

>This is such a beautiful novella that takes us into the married life of John and Phoenix. Don't miss this book and its predecessor, Bloom.

> This book is for a mature young adult (16+) to adult audience due to implied love scenes and abuse.

Lexi Wings says

Received copy in exchange of an honest review

~Review~

Captive in a storm of abuse by her ex-husband, Phoenix Swartz struggles to maintain her sanity while becoming a new bride. All is new to her, a huge contrast between her past and present. But insecurity and self-doubt drags her back to the dark corner. Caging her from what she desires, her husband.

John Westerling, is a patient man, but when he sees his beautiful wife caving to the darkness. He tries everything in his power to bring her back to life. Slowly but deliberate he envelopes her with faith, tenderness, understanding and sweet passion. He takes Phoenix broken wings and nurtures her back to a life full of happiness, where love is free given and reciprocated.

This is a sweet, but deep story. You get to see the pain behind an abused woman and her inner fight, to break from her past. Her body is a constant reminder of how she endured, but her mind rebels at the possibility to finally be safe as well happy. However, Phoenix got a second chance at life. And John, is so determined to help get through that not even the ghost of Charles can smother the love and passion of two being in need of each other. It's a wonderful clean romantic read.

To know more about this review, click the link:
<https://intellectualvixens.wordpress....>

Heather Miller says

I did receive this novella as a free ARC copy in exchange for an honest review. I thoroughly enjoyed this novella.

I did read book #1, Bloom by Cathy Jackson. This Novella, Blossom continues where Bloom left off, for the wedding and honeymoon. Our main character Phoenix has learned to open her heart and mind to John. Her mind does keep her from freely opening up to him. Even though she is learning how to love, she is still hurt by her husband Charles.

The love you see between John & his daughter Anna is amazing. I wish all men would love their children as much John does. John help Phoenix open up to him, and to herself. Phoenix is so trapped inside herself. She expects all men to treat her as Charles did, even though he mentally & physically abused her. Meeting John has helped Phoenix grow as a person. John helps her to see that not all men are bad as Charles was. Some, men maybe like Charles, but not all. John is a very strong Christian in his faith. He helps Phoenix learn about the Lord, and the Christianity faith.

John & Phoenix grow together through opening up to each other, by talking and not hiding things. Towards the end of the novella, we see John's family gathered for Christmas dinner & celebration. John tells Phoenix that he has told his family about her past, this way they can love her and help her overcome any problems or issues that come up. I didn't agree with John at first, but, then realized it was for Phoenix's benefit, if something may trigger her to go back into her shell they maybe able to help her.

John's brother, Jonathan comes over also during this time to see the family. I think there maybe more to Jonathan's story since everyone seems to be wary of him.

I hope there will be a next book to continue John, Phoenix & Anna's story. Even though reading about abuse is heard to deal with, it is apart of peoples lives. Not everyone grows up with rainbows and hearts in their lives. Not all marriages are nice, sometimes people put on a fake front in order to get through the day. Maybe we as a society do need to realize there are people who are hurting, and they could be right next door.

Cecelia Ratliff Phillips says

Blossom by Cathy Jackson

A definite must read sequel to Bloom!!

The story of John and Phoenix continue in Blossom. Their love and trust for each other is developed and nurtured. A story of true love, faith and destiny. It makes you realize that not all prayers are answered how you believe they should be but God listens and has a plan for each and every one of us!

Nick Kmita says

I was gifted this book to read as an ARC copy in exchange for an honest review.

This was the first book in years that I've sat and read from beginning to end without a break. I have waited quite impatiently for this follow-up book to Bloom, so I could find out the rest of the story about John

Westerling and his new wife Phoenix.

There are many scenes in which the reader will find themselves with tears. Some tears of joy. Some tears of sadness. Some tears of righteous anger.

We get to meet the rest of John's family: His father Eddie, mother Lucy, brothers Jonathon and David.

We see Phoenix finally coming around to see that John is not the man her late husband Charles had been, but it takes a major spiritual intervention to do it.

The book opens with an excerpt from John Westerling's personal journal dated November 20th and titled "My Wedding Day", in which John explains just how much faith it takes him to be a Child of God, and how he has trusted God through all the good and bad that has happened in his life to lead him finally to meeting and marrying Phoenix.

I could go on and on about the intricacies that kept me reading, but it's better if I let you find out for yourselves.

I hope you enjoy this book as much as I did.

5 stars and worth it!
