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Eden Kelley is the primary caregiver for her mother who's in the advanced stages of Alzheimer's disease, and she's only twenty-four. Not what she planned to do when she left her husband for a new start with her four-year-old daughter in tow. She'd hoped for free babysitting, but instead she found a mystery. The discovery of an erroneous marriage document leads to more questions, and unfortunately Eden can't ask her mother for answers because she doesn't remember.

Her mother's antics drive her crazy, but Eden's determined to make the best of it. That includes finding the exciting romantic adventure she'd dreamed about. But when trouble knocks, it's her husband Cade who arrives to help. It's awkward and tense. And Eden comes to one sure conclusion: leaving her handsome, caring husband was a huge mistake.

Her parents had a second chance at love? Would she and Cade get one, too?

East of Eden Details

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From Reader Review East of Eden for online ebook

Tanya Stewart says

An interesting web of past and present

This is a story about love lost, past and present, and how all of it comes together at once to give Eden a different perspective than the one she's always known...the secrets her parents kept from her but can't address now through the distance of death and Alzheimer's disease...the reality of her marriage, or lack of it, seen only in hindsight after she tossed it away and her husband has moved on. This story is about reconciling the past with the present and future, the possibility of second chances and starting over once you've lost almost everything and how a child can learn so much from the parents if only the lessons weren't buried in a lifetime of secrecy.

Jan says

Joan recommended "East of Eden" but I don't know if it is this author.

Eliza Jones says

Wow. I read this entire book in one sitting, it was that good! I normally read young adult books even though I'm definitely not a teenager anymore, but this book was amazing.

When Eden leaves her husband, the last thing she expects is to find her mother suffering from Alzheimer's. Over time she realizes how deeply she regrets leaving Cade and unravels the mystery of her parent's marriage and life together.

Such an emotional book with wonderful characters who go through very hard things, but never stop supporting and loving one another.

Veray says

I love books that make me think and that I can learn from even while I am being entertained. This is one of those books. This story covers a main couple (Cade and Eden) and their marriage problems, but it also goes back and forth telling the story of Eden's mother and father (Lorraine and Joshua), there is even a bit about Lorraine's mother and father and their life. It was interesting to see the different eras and the thinking and the things going on in the world at that time like wars and such. Edens life is such a mess and she makes so many mistakes. The largest being the breakup of her marriage. It was painful to watch her change her mind about her feelings for her husband and be too proud to admit her mistakes. I just wanted to slap her and say talk to him, tell him. This wasn't a feel good story, but it did have a believably happy ending so I have to say I loved it. Now I need to go read something silly and lighthearted.

Maggie Nambot (macarons & paperbacks) says

This book was not what I expected it would be...it was much better :)

Eden is a young mother, unhappy and bored with her married life in a small town, so she takes her 4 year old daughter and leaves her husband to live with her mother, thinking this will be a chance for her to start over. Only her mother, unbeknownst to Eden, has developed Alzheimer's disease, and Eden is nearly overwhelmed with taking care of both her and her young daughter. As she tries to make up for lost time with her mother, Eden also begins reevaluating her own life and along the way she uncovers family secrets that help to unlock her own happiness.

This book gave me googly eyes at times and made me feel Eden's pain and regret at others. I loved the flashbacks and how real and stubborn the characters were (I have a thing for stubborn characters, and I believe the author does too...). If you're looking for a heart-touching (and heart-warming) read, this is it!

Rachel says

One of the best contemporary romances I've read in a long, long time. Will definitely check out more from this author.

Francene Stanley says

I read an earlier version for Kindle.

The plot draws the reader into a situation of facing many traumas at the same time. The debilitating illness of a loved-one and a marriage separation lead Eden to realize she's made a terrible mistake and she needs all her strength to swallow her pride to admit she still loves her husband. I found the symptoms of Alzheimer disease very helpful in regard to understanding someone close to me. The book is worth reading on the strength of that alone along with the excellent writing skills by the authors. Of course, the romantic element to the story softens the strong message of love hope and forgiveness.

Carrie says

DNF. I just couldn't get into this one. Didn't care for the characters at all.

Carol Van says

Excellent book. The author tackles two emotional life situations: Alzheimer's and marital problems. She tells a story of how a daughter helps her mother through her last days and how the daughter's marriage is reconciled. This is a book that will capture you from the beginning to the end.

Angie says

The premise of the story was interesting but I found myself confused by jumps. A scene starts in one location and suddenly we're someplace else with no transition. This may be the result of translation. I also struggled with the dialogue. I wanted to like the story more, but the choppy and unnatural flow of events and dialogue made it awkward to read. As I said, there is a solid basis for an interesting story to be told, but my personal preference would have been for it to follow more smoothly.

Mandy (I Read Indie) Anderson says

Another fantastic book by Strauss. I really got hooked on the story these characters told. It was sweet and amazing seeing two similar lives from different times playing out on the pages in front of me. I wish we could have gotten a bit more of the lives of Eden's mother living back in the 40's. It was so very interesting, and I always thought that Strauss does a fabulous job giving us looks back into the past with her writing. You can tell she does her research and it shows.

I will admit that I didn't care much for Eden. How she could up and leave her husband to move her daughter back home to stay with a mother she obviously hasn't talked to in quite a while is beyond me. Her mother was so far gone, you'd think that Eden would have noticed by now. It is apparent that she hasn't talked to her in some time and to move her daughter and herself in without calling first? It is unheard of. Were there no phone calls back home that might have spurred some sort of thought that her mother wasn't well? I didn't get this character or her way of thinking. I had no connection.

But even though I didn't connect to her, I did connect to the storyline. I was enamored with the mystery surrounding her mom and dad. I eagerly read wanting to unearth their secrets. I was thoroughly pleased with what I found and how the whole story pieced together. And how her parent's story related to what Eden and Cade were going through.

A perfect read if you are seeking a read that is light and mysterious. I enjoyed it so much as I have all of Strauss' work. She is definitely an author I know will give me a read I am sure to love.

Mohammad Jalili says

I am confused, the characters are not so real, all at the extreme , and with contradicting behaviors. Beck is a great writer but I did not understand his intention of creating characters with many dimensions . A person is kind and calm and vicious at the same time and for long time

Crystal Collier says

I am a huge fan of most everything Lee Strauss writes, but this one just didn't quite resonate with me. It's

definitely a sweet story about a young woman learning to overcome her selfish tendencies, and you really do suffer through them with her. You will definitely feel with this one: Injustice. Frustration. Hope. Sorrow. Loneliness. The importance of family. The value of good friends and bad.

This is definitely a read for older audiences. Clean language throughout, but also some disturbing situations.

Content warning: Flirting with adultery and the consequences.
