



Give Us This Day

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Jess Colton gave his life to the Lord but failed to surrender an old habit. Fueled by alcohol, he spent the night with a former girlfriend, ignoring his Christian principles. Convicted of his wrong doing, he quit drinking, but discovered another addiction. Now he can't manage his life as his weight soars and diabetes threatens to claim him. Jess is baffled when the beautiful Holly Harrison declares her love. Holly lived to please herself. But everything changed when a deadly motorcycle accident altered her life forever. Nowhere else to turn, she looked to God for answers. Now, she's convinced no man will want her. She doesn't plan on falling in love with the handsome Jess Colton, seeing past his bulk to the godly, tender man within. When Jess drives a wedge between them, she loses hope of a future with him. Can Holly overcome her fear of Jess discovering her handicap? Will Jess find control over his eating and his life?

Give Us This Day Details

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From Reader Review Give Us This Day for online ebook

Cindy says

It all began in an elevator. A stuck elevator. Holly Harrison, noticed that the chubby man in the elevator with her had the kindest face she has ever seen, and once they were stuck, she realized he was truly a kind man. Jess Colton, was a handsome man, and a kind man, taking the stuck elevator situation under control, he kept Holly calm by praying with her and by getting them help. Score one for Jess!

A promise made during the situation brings Jess and Holly back together, as she attends church with him, just like she promised God she would during her panic stricken moments stuck in the elevator. Attending church however opens Holly up to the relationship she once had with God and makes her realize that she is missing that relationship. A face-your-issues and deal-with-your-problems style novel, this story finds Jess and Holly both facing the issues in life that keep them bound in their own type of prisons. Prisons that are self-imposed, and that are also imaginary, ones they don't seem to be able to break out of. This is a heart-warming story of overcoming our issues, and moving forward. Solving our problems and finding love. A story that will not disappoint. 320 pages 4 stars! Available in e-book format from your favorite seller of e-books.

This book was provided for review purposes only, no payment was received for this review.

Amy says

Holly and Jess live broken lives; and instead of placing their problems in God's hands, they try to handle life on their own. The one sentence in the novel that sums up the conflict in the story is that the characters are "...running from (their) problems, and (they) would continue to run in circles until (they) ran into God."

June Foster handles addictions, family dysfunctions, and physical abnormalities with loving and respectful sensitivity. What I like best about this little romance is that it doesn't present a picture perfect heroine or hero - a standard none of us can reach. Instead of making the reader yearn for the perfect, beautiful man who doesn't exist, she gives us a picture of two imperfect people learning to love each other in the Lord, the way He intended.

This is a novel about redemption; and in the process of being redeemed, Holly and Jess learn to rely on God to "Give Us This Day."

Debbie says

"Give Us This Day" by June Foster is another 5 star book. It is the first book in the Bellewood Book series. This is the second in the series that I have read and of the two this is my favorite. Both books deals with accepting forgiveness. I borrowed this book but I am going to have to get my own copy as I want to read this book again as it has messages that I feel can use in my own struggle of food addiction. Yes, this book is about food addiction and how a person used food to comfort themselves instead of letting God comfort them

the way he wants to.

The book starts off with Jess and Holly getting stuck in an elevator and before that all Holly can think about is the overweight guy on the elevator with her. Then when they get stuck, Jess prays and the attraction starts. This story is about their struggles and their love. They are in love but both have secrets they feel will turn the other away. Holly has an artificial leg and Jess (well Jess's secret isn't hidden or a secret) has a food addiction. This book tells about their ups and downs in the relationships. I keep wanting to get to the end so I could see if Holly and Jess ended up as a couple and if Jess was able to turn his addiction over to God and if Holly could convince him of her look. I was surprised at the ending (not with Jess and Holly) but with their family members. I think this book would help a lot of people if they took the time and really read this book and believed the Biblical principals discussed in this story. Yes, the story is fictional but it could have happened and I sure it did somewhere!

Pat Dyer says

This is an inspirational and very heartwarming story.

People with issues—some are self-imposed, and others are forced upon us. Dealing with self-image, addiction, dysfunctional family, and guilt are among the problems Jess and Holly have to deal with in order to find the happiness they both seek.

Thrown together in an unexpected situation, the dental hygienist and computer programmer, both Christians, are attracted to one another, but each has their doubts as to their own worthiness to be loved by the other.

Jess' obesity is creating more problems for him than just the cruel comments people throw at him. Holly's past and its consequences haunt her as she falls deeper in love with this kind and gentle man.

Although they become good friends, Jess makes the decision to send Holly away, believing he cannot overcome his addiction and become the man he feels she deserves. Although Holly is crushed, she decides she must get over it and move on. She draws closer to the Father for comfort and strength.

A critical situation provides opportunity for Holly to witness in a very real way to Jess' sister.

Later, Jess is able to lead Holly's sister to the Lord. But will Jess and Holly ever see each other again?

This is June Foster's first book, and I have to say I really enjoyed it and look forward to her next release.

Nancee says

As Jess Colton overcame his addiction to alcohol he developed a strong faith in God. Unfortunately the addiction to alcohol was replaced by an addiction to overeating. His resulting obesity threatens not only his life but his career. His poor self image is fueled by rude and insensitive comments and degrading looks from others, including his own father.

Holly Harrison has a past that haunts her, and a sister who routinely reminds her of that fact. A past motorcycle accident left her with a partial leg amputation, creating the need for her to wear a prosthesis. She had strayed from her Christian beliefs and hadn't attended church in several years. Her disability and lack of

faith resulted in the belief that she isn't worthy of love.

Holly and Jess meet when stuck in an elevator in their apartment building. Holly panics and Jess comforts her and prays with her. Holly leans on Jess, and in a weak moment promises Jess she will attend church with him if they are ever released from their "prison." Holly is attracted to his beautiful blue eyes and warm and comforting personality, and during their imprisonment Holly and Jess become friends. As their friendship blossoms into a relationship, the challenges of their respective disabilities become obstructions which threaten their happiness and possible future together.

June Foster has broached numerous sensitive topics in "Give Us This Day," issues of addiction, obesity, disabilities, prejudice, dysfunctional families and loss of Christian faith. These topics are presented in a very open and insightful manner. Her characters are believable and their obstacles are realistically portrayed through events with which many readers can identify. The openness regarding these topics may be helpful to readers who struggle with some of the issues discussed in this book. The progression through insecurities and addiction in this book are impressive.

Melissa Henderson says

Jess and Holly meet when they become stuck in an elevator. Both of them have personal issues, but, a friendship begins. Jess is extremely overweight and Holly has a past that she is not proud about and also, she is hiding a secret. This story explores the relationship between two people who are broken in different ways, yet, learn to rely on God instead of themselves. The author brings the story to conclusion in a sweet way, showing the reader that we all have issues, yet, we can all change for the better, if we choose to trust God and follow Him. I enjoyed this story very much. I received a copy of this story from the author and this is my honest, personal opinion.

B.J. Robinson says

Bellewood Book One: Give Us This Day by June Foster released February 1, 2012, from Desert Breeze Publishing Inc. A hero with a food addiction in Jess Colton and Holly Harrison are stuck in an elevator. She's captivated with his pale blue eyes, and sees more than his outward appearance. Holly hides her own disability. A simple, elegant style has impressed me. Jess battles with his weight and feels he can't offer himself to Holly though he loves her. He doesn't want to tie her down to a man with health issues. Holly feels Jeff couldn't possibly love her because of her own handicap. She hides it when he wants to walk on the beach with her and asks her to take off her shoes so they can feel the sand between their toes. She knows she'll eventually have to show and tell, but will the time ever be right? This novel is a heart-touching story of love, forgiveness, and what God can do when you let Him. I highly recommend it for anyone who may be battling food addiction. Jess gave up on addiction for another until he let God help him. This novel is spun gold. We are all flawed humans in one way or another, all works-in-progress. I so enjoyed the method in which June Foster brings the pieces of flawed human nature together to create a touching story of love you'll remember after closing your eBook.

TWJ Magazine says

Just as Jesus spoke in parables to teach his disciples, so can an author of Christian fiction weave threads of truth throughout a story, providing the reader a thoughtful experience in addition to a pleasant read.

Such is the case with *Give Us This Day* by June Foster. This character-driven novel introduces us to Jess Dalton and Holly Harrison as they become trapped together inside an elevator at the apartment complex where they both live. Bonded by their experience, they move beyond acquaintances to become friends - safe friends, because each is certain that his/her flaws guarantee that the other would never consider a romantic relationship.

For Jess, it is his weight. He successfully quit drinking upon becoming a Christian, but he now weighs more than 300 pounds, a result of replacing alcohol with a food addiction. He despises who he has become and his self-loathing is compounded by the insensitive comments others make, yet he continues to turn to food to cope. Completely discouraged, he is convinced that no woman will ever love him, certainly not one as lovely as Holly.

Holly feels unworthy of love due to her prosthetic leg, a constant reminder of a time in her life when she had strayed from God's path. Although she sees beyond Jess's outward appearance and is drawn to his kindness and gentle ways, her shame and guilt keep her from revealing her scars to him, certain that he would reject her.

Give Us This Day is a charming story that illustrates how internal issues can keep an individual from accepting the grace s/he offers to others. Foster writes with sensitivity as she demonstrates the inner battles with which Jess and Holly wrestle, as well as the hope and fresh starts within their reach. Far from being a heavy or preachy book, however, this book can be equally enjoyed by readers simply looking for an satisfying story as well as those who like a bit more depth in their leisure pursuits.

(The Wordsmith Journal strives to guide readers to books of personal interest, with the understanding and respect that what appeals to some may not appeal to others. Therefore we attempt to keep our reviews focused on content, genre and style. The rating is necessary to make use of Goodreads and Amazon. It reflects the reviewer's own level of enjoyment, but the review is intended to be informative for the benefit of all readers.)

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

Holly Harrison meets kind, good-looking, if very overweight Jess Colton when they are stranded in the elevator in their apartment building. He helps her to get through her attack of claustrophobia and fear by praying for her, and shows what a nice guy he is. Once they are rescued from the elevator, Jess invites her to go to church with him. Holly became a Christian years ago, but she listened to her sister's insistence that God wouldn't forgive her for the sins she had committed while in college, so she stopped going to church, praying and reading her Bible. Jess's encouragement and spiritual counseling helps Holly to get back in a close relationship with the Lord, and she starts to fall in love with the gentle, beautiful man. His weight doesn't matter to her. She sees the loving person inside, and is drawn to him for his love for God and the warm friendship he shows her. Even though she knows that he probably wouldn't want damaged goods like herself.

Jess falls in love at first sight with Holly, but more importantly, he reaches out to the lonely, unhappy young woman with the love of Christ. While others seem repelled and critical of his weight, she shows him loving friendship and support. He knows that no woman would want him with his large body and his addiction to food. All he can do is take comfort in their friendship, even if he wants more in his heart. But what can he offer to her when it turns out that with his weight issues, his health is a ticking clock getting closer to eternity?

Review

Give Us This Day was a very touching novel about the relationship between two lonely people who felt deeply unworthy inside, despite their relationship with Christ. I appreciated that God brought them together so they could help each other through their mutual issues with feeling loved and accepted. Additionally, it was refreshing to read a book where the couple falling in love aren't drop dead gorgeous or without flaws, and they love each other for what they see inside, as well for their mutual love for Christ.

The story touched me deeply, both from a spiritual and emotional perspective. Jess was a very good man, and it was painful to see how people treated him because of his weight, as if he was disgusting and inferior and undeserving of respect. Foster ably conveys the message about God's love for all people, and that he accepts us as we are. Jess's struggles with an alcohol addiction that he substituted with food because of feeling a lack of acceptance from his hypercritical father resonated with me. His process of turning that addiction over to God and seeking his help to recover from it, was a powerful message to me of God's ability to heal all our wounds and to be our sufficiency in a fallen world. In the case of Holly, I was reminded that God's love is unconditional, that there is no sin he won't forgive and that we don't need to feel unworthy of his love and fellowship because of mistakes we make, past or future.

At times, I feel as though Christian fiction can be all about a message with no story to go with it. With Give Us This Day, I felt that the message was seamlessly intertwined with an involving story. I rooted for Jess and Holly to find their happy ending together, even as I appreciated the spiritual truths and insights given in this novella. I loved how in the midst of their struggles, these characters were able to find comfort in each other, and from the people in their lives (both Christian and non-Christian), but also to help those who didn't know and appreciate God's unconditional love as a gift available to all.

There are very few, if any romance books that feature an overweight hero or even a hero who struggles with weight issues, so this book serves as a very good trailblazer for a needed genre today. I found that I loved Jess for his whole being as I read this novella. While I felt pain for his emotional issues that led to his obesity and worried about his health, his weight didn't diminish his attractiveness to me as a person. It wasn't hard to see why Holly fell in love with him. I definitely see this as being realistic, because many people don't just look for the perfect physical specimen, either because they have gone down that path and been disappointed or because they know all along their soulmate won't come in that package. They look to the heart for a person who they feel safe and loved with. Give Us This Day is the book for those readers. And for readers who want a great romance with an effective and non-preachy Christian message. I recommend reading it.

Reviewed for The Hope Chest Reviews:

<http://www.thcreviews.com/cgi-bin/vts...>
