



## Wish You Were Here

*Victoria Connelly*

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**Wish You Were Here** Victoria Connelly

Sun, sea and secrets...

A week on the sunny Greek island of Kethos is just what Alice Archer needs, even if she has to put up with her difficult sister. Stella's tantrums and diva-like demands are a fair price to pay for crystal-clear waters, blue skies and white clifftop villas.

When Alice meets Milo, a handsome gardener at the Villa Argenti, for the first time she suddenly feels beautiful, alluring and confident. But is it just holiday magic or will the irresistible pull between Alice and Milo survive against all odds?

## Wish You Were Here Details

Date : Published May 9th 2013 by Avon

ISBN :

Author : Victoria Connelly

Format : Kindle Edition 369 pages

Genre : Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Romance, Fiction, Cultural, Greece

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# From Reader Review Wish You Were Here for online ebook

## Dianne Selwood says

Because of my addiction to anything Greek, I was drawn to this book, which turned out to be a very easy lighthearted holiday read. Even though I knew what was going to happen right from the beginning, I did enjoy reading it?

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## Rea Cobb says

Wish You Were Here is the first book I have read by Victoria Connelly so I was unsure what to expect. I packed this one in my bag to keep me company in hospital today but it became clear a few hours into my treatment this wasn't a good idea! By just after mid-day I had already devoured the book! So now I find myself bookless which is a great excuse to crack on and write the review for you all whilst it is fresh in my mind!

Our heroine is the lovely, plain Alice. Alice doesn't shine out from the crowd unlike her beautiful sister Stella. When Stella splits from her partner she has a spare ticket to Kethos and she soon talks Alice into going on holiday with her. Going on this holiday with her difficult sister was shouting warning alarms at me but maybe a holiday in Greece is what Alice needs to finally find herself.

Milo is a gardener who works in Kethos at Villa Argenti, he is very passionate about his work and his country. Unfortunately Milo doesn't have a woman in his life he is passionate about, it would be very difficult to bring a woman home as would they understand when they meet the little lady in his life, Tiana?

I love this author's easy writing style, the storyline moved along effortlessly which left me flying through the pages. The descriptive writing really helped to set the scene if I closed my eyes it was quite easy to visualise the glorious surroundings and I got quite a shock looking out the window and seeing a dull drizzly day, this book needs to come with holiday vouchers!

Both Milo and Alice are wonderful characters who are very easy to warm to as they are both very warm and caring characters who put other people's feelings and needs before their own. I think every woman reading this will find they have a little soft spot for Milo!

This book is a very gentle, romantic, feel good read. The storyline was very enjoyable but not challenging which makes for a perfect beach read so pick this one up to keep you company on your travels this summer. I will be picking up more books by Victoria Connelly.

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## Louise Sparrow says

The perfect holiday, a wonderful romance with a little magic thrown in.

Wish You Were Here is what I would call a real romance, where the connection between two people is about love rather than lust, however strong their attraction. There is plenty of humour but for the most part the

characters have a realistic feeling to them, (I'm not sure I believe that anyone as perfect as Milo exists, but I'd like to.) Either way this book will leave you smiling.

Victoria Connelly has a lovely style that is easy to read and hard to put down and her latest novel definitely does not disappoint.

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### **Maria says**

I liked the premise of this book; a young, shy girl goes to Greece and falls in love. However, I felt as though a lot of the book was much too predictable. In terms of what happened after Alice wished upon the statue of Aphrodite, that was quite obvious, with all of the men gawking at her. Alice often wondered 'oh, why is this happening?'; it was written so plain for everyone to see, it was the wish! I was often annoyed with Stella's behaviour, and felt bored when I had to read about her rudeness throughout various times of the book. I felt as though most of the book was of Alice and Milo's separate lives, not their lives together. I enjoyed reading about the Greek landscapes and the beauty of the love between Alice and Milo however, I felt that there was a lot of depth missing from their relationship. I also felt that the part about Tiana, and the brothers each wanting to take care of her was something that could have been written out of the book.

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### **June says**

I really enjoyed this book. It was sweet and charming, and I loved the relationship between Alice and her father. Stella was soooo annoying! A fun read which I was keen to pick up each day.

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### **Cora ? Tea Party Princess says**

A charming chick-lit and a very firm four stars. I won this copy via Goodreads First Reads.

This makes for a great summer read. It has everything you could ask for and more, with it's hint of mythology based fantasy, love, mystery, family, friendship... The ups and downs of more than one dysfunctional family.

Some parts are exasperating, and Shelly is one mean bitch who needs to grow up and shut up and get a job.

This book has made me want to go to some quiet island somewhere nice and warm, and to feel the atmosphere.

*I received a copy of this for free via Goodreads First Reads.*

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### **Laura Whitley says**

I really enjoyed this escapism and could relate to the sibling rivalry, although it was obviously quite extreme in this example

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## **Hannah Fielding says**

It was the cover – or to be more exact, the beautiful blue of the cover – that attracted me to this book. At once I thought ‘Greek islands’, and because I am so very fond of this part of the world, I found myself reading the blurb and then, of course, buying the book.

The setting certainly proved to be a major element of why I enjoyed the book. I could almost taste the cuisines, smell the scents in the air, feel the sun on my skin. I defy any reader not to be swept up in the romance of the setting and secretly wish that they too could go and live on a quiet Greek island with Milo – such a simple, romantic existence:

When he’d returned to Kethos, he’d vowed never to leave again. The bruising, bustling city might suit his three brothers but it didn’t suit him. He would rather walk through an olive grove than a crowd and he preferred a rocky mountain to a shop-line pavement.

I quite understand this perspective, being much more at home in rural Kent and the south coast of France than in a busy city!

I really enjoyed the links in the book with mythology, and the slight mysticism this creates. Also right up my street is the exploration of destiny and fate: do you choose your path, or does some invisible force guide you?

This is a wonderful book for those who enjoy a tale of liberation and growth in a heroine, from under-the-thumb and depressed, to free and loved for herself. It’s also ideal for those who like a physically dreamy but also emotionally attractive hero – Milo certainly delivers on that score.

It’s perhaps not a book for those who like a lot of depth and detail.

The character of the sister, for example, is somewhat one-dimensional, and I wish we could have got beneath her veneer and seen from maturity develop for her also. But having said that, I found a lot of poignancy in the relationship between Alice and her infirm father; very moving, and makes you really care for Alice.

Overall, an ideal summer holiday right – light, easy reading and a sweet romance.

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## **Erica Olsen says**

This never really got a hold of me. I can't explain why. The story itself is actually really cute and I like the idea a lot, but I didn't really feel the execution of it was all that good. It was a little over the top and I found it more cheesy than fun. It wasn't a book I thought about when I weren't reading it - unfortunately.

It's still and easy an cute read, if anyone should need that!

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## Kelsie says

This book first appealed to me because of its Greek setting. Greece has been on my radar ever since Lena and *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*! I'd read another book by this author and gave it 4 stars. This one turned out to be a mediocre read though.

I mean, it started out so promising! I liked learning about Alice and her office job. I was really excited once she got to Greece. Something never really clicked for me though. There was an annoying misunderstanding and the romance felt off. Especially when Alice was involved with one character but then (view spoiler). It never felt sincere, especially during a climactic scene when Alice said she "thought" she loved the male love interest and they laughed?! And then I actually rolled my eyes at the ending because it was just so darn typical. All in all, this wasn't a terrible book but it could have been a lot better!

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## Marie says

Alice who is plain, not beautiful at all, goes on holiday to a beautiful Greek island with her very selfish sister. Alice finds herself enchanted with the island and meets gardener Milo who introduces to the magical Aphrodite, a statue in his workplace garden. Alice's life is completely transformed through the goddess' magic but it is only on her return to Kethos that Alice can truly believe how wonderfully her life has changed. Delightful example of chick-lit.

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## Alison Winter says

I've never read Victoria Connelly before and I really enjoyed it. The story was lovely and I was on edge as to whether Alice and Milo would get together, likeable characters and I could picture the setting when reading.

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## Elaine says

I really enjoyed this book, which would make perfect sun lounger reading. It tells the story of Alice, who is a very normal, ordinary woman. She is shy, kind, caring and unassuming but compared with her sister Stella, who is beautiful, flighty, flirty, selfish, egotistic, shallow, manipulative and totally self absorbed, she always seems to fade into the background.

The story starts when they go on holiday together to the sun kissed Greek island of Kethos and Alice meets gorgeous Greek gardener Milo. Without giving anything of the story away, it is safe to say it is a bit of a cautionary tale, the moral being "be careful what you wish for, because it might just come true".

It is a nice, fun, read which is entertaining with a twist that makes it just that little bit different. It flows at a nice pace and never seems rushed, with an ending that is satisfying.

I did, however, have a couple of niggles. The character of Stella is just a bit too one dimensional, almost like a cartoon character. Whilst she is fun to read about, she doesn't have any saving graces at all, she is just self, self, self. It would have been nice to scrape beneath that expensively made up surface at some point, and find

a genuine person, but it didn't happen.

There are also one or two annoying little timeline inconsistencies, but not enough to spoil what is, in effect, a darn good read.

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## **Els says**

Na, jammer genoeg, twee saaie en teleurstellende boeken te hebben gelezen, ben ik blij dat ik weer naar één van mijn favoriete genres kan grijpen. Beeld je dit in : gezellig in de zetel duiken met de hond op je voeten en terwijl de regen tegen de rolluiken klettert, weg dromen en je verplaatsen naar een zonnig Grieks eiland ... Niets, behalve zelf op dat eiland te zitten natuurlijk, is leuker. Vermits dat niet altijd te realiseren is, moeten we onze auteurs dankbaar zijn dat zij ons de mogelijkheid geven om er dan toch in gedachten te kunnen zijn. Ik ben er alvast klaar voor en ben benieuwd welke geheimen er zullen komen bovendrijven.

Een verhaal op een zonnig Grieks eiland, een standbeeld van de godin Aphrodite en plots ziet het leven van Alice er een pak anders uit. Beter? Dat blijft nog maar de vraag.

De cover is alvast geslaagd. Je krijgt direct zin om je koffers vol te stoppen met zomerkleding, het eerste vliegtuig dat die richting uitgaat in te springen en zodra je aankomt, die azuurblauwe zee in te duiken. En hiermee wordt natuurlijk al de eerste stap gezet om de sfeer weer te geven.

Een vlot geschreven boek met de nodige misverstanden en grappige situaties. De beschrijvingen zijn beeldend zodat je je alles goed kan voorstellen, zonder overdreven te zijn.. Je voelt ook onmiddellijk sympathie voor de ene zus, terwijl je de andere met plezier even door elkaar zou willen schudden. Ook daar is de auteur zeker in haar opzet geslaagd.

Wat gaat er gebeuren met de 2 hoofdpersonages? Komt het goed? Natuurlijk komt het goed, alleen is het niet direct duidelijk hoe en dat maakt het zeker extra leuk.

### **Conclusie**

Een ontspannende paar uurtjes lektuur zijn hier zeker verzekerd. Als toetje krijg je op het eind van het boek nog een blik in de toekomst. Dat is, vind ik, altijd een geweldig pluspunt. Daarvoor alleen zou ik al een extra ster toekennen smile-emoticon. Kortom, een boek dat, voor mij, absoluut 4 sterren mag krijgen.

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## **Belinda says**

4,25 sterren - Nederlandse paperback - Op naar een Grieks eiland. Ik heb mijn figuurlijke koffer al gepakt. ???

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