

Forever Faith Reviews

Romance should be an escape from reality. This, at least, is what I've heard readers say. A romance should fulfill your fantasies. It should let you live vicariously through the characters as their love kindles and deepens.

In most romances, the heroine is part of the fantasy. She's young, beautiful, desirable - the way we'd all like to be. The trouble is, how can you identify with someone who is perfect? In *Forever Faith*, Ginger Simpson creates a protagonist who is likable, intelligent and brave, but physically flawed. In the process, she draws the reader into Faith's mind and heart and makes us really care what happens to her.

Faith Oliver has known heartache. Her father died when she was an infant. Her mother struggled to raise her despite impoverished circumstances. Chubby from childhood, Faith was always a social outcast. Food, often shared with her beloved mom, was her solace. The recent death of her mother has left her desolate, alone, and nearly friendless save for her equally overweight buddy Nila.

Faith's daily life is bleak. However, in her dreams she is wooed by a handsome, virile stranger whose attentions become more and more urgent as time goes on. Faith decides to take her life into her own hands. Under the supervision of a doctor, she starts a serious effort to lose weight. At the same time, she visits a hypnotherapist to try and uncover the meaning of her vivid, arousing dreams.

I don't want to spoil the story by revealing what Faith discovers under hypnosis. All I will say is that her dream lover is more than wishful thinking, more than just a figment of her love-starved imagination.

Ms. Simpson's writing is highly effective in revealing Faith's character and encouraging the reader to identify with her. Practically everyone (probably even the beautiful, thin girls) has felt some of the sense of inadequacy that dogs Faith. The scene at the ball, in which no one asks Faith to dance, was so familiar to me personally. I was always the shy, insecure wallflower, the egghead that nobody wanted.

The main problem with this book is that it is so short! Just as I was getting deeply involved, the story ended, with some tantalizing suggestions, but no resolution. I know that *Forever Faith* is part of a series that Ms. Simpson is working on. I do hope that Faith's tale will be continued in a future installment. Having come to identify with her, I dearly want to see her living happily ever after, to have the fantasies come true.

Emotionally genuine romance, March 24, 2009

By Sally E. Goldin

Faith Oliver is a young woman who has battled a weight problem most of her life. Because of this, she lacks confidence in her appeal to the opposite sex. To help her deal

with it, she turns to a dream lover, a mysterious male who guides her into the throes of passion nightly, but never reveals his face.

As the man in her dreams begins to feel real, his touch lingers even when she's awake. She can still feel his kiss, his lips on her body, his touch everywhere. Faith starts to believe she might be losing her mind.

Lieutenant Joshua Hartley is headed to war and must leave his fiancée, Maddy, behind. He promises he will return and they will never be parted, only, Joshua can't keep his vow because he is killed in a battle during the War Between the States. He sees Faith as his lost love, and the only way to reunite with her is to enter Faith's dreams

While reading *Forever Faith*, I found myself drawn into the world of a woman, who like a lot of women today, is battling a weight problem. Alone and lonely, Faith Oliver is one of the most unusual heroines I've ever read about. She is real. Her emotional problems of dealing with her weight, feeling ignored and no prospects of ever finding a man who will love her for the wonderful woman she is touches the heart deeply.

Then Lt. Joshua Hartley, a ghost who is searching for his lost love, begins to make nightly appearances in her dreams. He believes he has found his Maddy in Faith. His disturbing touches in Faith's dreams leaves her sexually aroused and frustrated. The journey these two take to discover what is real and what is their past is very heartwarming and left this reader wanting more.

When the story ended, I found myself shaking my head and thinking 'No, it can't end here.' I wanted more. I would like nothing better than to see this short story turned into a full length novel. Simply put, it tugs at the heart strings.

I give it five stars for its emotional and realistic views on a taboo subject few of us want to discuss.

By Tabitha Shay "book haven" (Poteau, Ok USA), March 24, 2009