



The Missionary

Jack Wilder

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Ex-Navy SEAL Stone Pressfield has a bad feeling about the proposed church missions trip to Manila, Philippines. The college-age church group plans to go to Manila and help victims of the sex-trafficking industry. Stone's lingering nightmare memories about the sex-trafficking industry have him warning church leaders that the trip is a bad idea. He knows all too well that it could end in violence, and those involved aren't to be trifled with.

When beautiful Wren Morgan goes missing, he has a sick feeling that he knows exactly who took her, and for what purpose. The problem is, Wren isn't just any other student. She's someone he's close to, someone he cares about. Now she's in the hands of cruel, evil men, and Stone is the only one who can rescue her before the unthinkable happens.

The Missionary Details

Date : Published October 8th 2013 by Jack Wilder

ISBN :

Author : Jack Wilder

Format : Kindle Edition 320 pages

Genre : New Adult, Sociology, Abuse, Romance, War, Military Fiction, Romantic Suspense,
Contemporary, Contemporary Romance

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From Reader Review The Missionary for online ebook

Karen111 says

MILD SPOILERS

I really loved this book! It wasn't what I was expecting, but it still delivered on every level!

Filipino/American college student Wren and all-American ex-Navy SEAL Stone are both part of the same bible group. They both have feelings for each other, but they are not acted on as Stone feels he's too old and world-weary for a younger, more naive Wren.

When the leader of the group tells the members that most of them will be going to Manila in the Philippines to aid women and children who have been kidnapped and trafficked for sex, all of them jump at the chance. Stone, however, strongly advises them against going at all. Unknown to the group, Stone got injured there on a secret mission, and saw the horrors of sex-trafficking first hand.

Worried for the group, and Wren in particular, Stone keeps everyone within his sight at all times in Manila. But it's not enough, and on their last night there, Wren is abducted and held, and it is up to Stone to get her back.

Stone eventually finds Wren, and then it's a game of cat and mouse between the duo and the evil trafficker, as they fight to reach the US Embassy.

This book was fast paced and held my interest all the way through. It was as harrowing, depraved and scary as you would imagine, but the ray of light among all this sadness was the beautiful love story between Wren and Stone. And don't let the fact that it was a male author put you off! Mr Jasinda Wilder writes a super sexy love scene as good as any woman.

Wren was a very likable heroine, and wasn't a whiny character, even though she had every right to be. Stone

was as alpha-male as you could imagine, and I loved Wren's trust and faith in him. When he told her she needed to pack her bags and get moving, she didn't even question it. She sucked it up like a big girl should.

I would highly recommend this sexy thriller, but please be aware that this book quite graphically tells the story of women being abducted, abused, raped and drugged, and is not for the faint-hearted. But, it definitely taught me more about the subject of sex-trafficking, and it was a very descriptive account of Manila's dark side.

A great first novel by Jack Wilder, and I'm really looking forward to more from him.

KAT ? Kitty Kats Crazy About Books ? says

Review also posted here on my Facebook Blog: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Kitty-...>

This book kicked ass!! It had everything in a book I could ever wish for, sit on the edge of your seat moments of complete and utter panic of trying to read faster to see if they were going to escape their terror..

It was dark, it was gritty but so damn hard to put down!! I loved the intensity of it!! One minute my heart would be breaking reading what Wren had to endure, to other moments of falling in love with all things alpha Ex-Navy SEAL "Stone"

From page One, Wrens captivity is in your face, it's heartbreakingly raw!!

Waking up in the darkness, pure terror, knowing that to fight was futile, in irons, punches to the face, the ribs, in horrific pain..

A jab to the bicep..A sense of floating..Sluggishness.. Foreboding..And then Darkness..

"MY NAME IS WREN MORGAN" She focused on that, it was all she knew, all she had, before darkness pulled her down and under..

This book wasn't sugar coated and not for the faint hearted, it gives you a true sense of what goes on in the sex trafficking underground corrupt organizations..Highly recommend..

Lise *friends don't flag* says

Very intense and heart stopping action. I was mentally and almost physically exhausted after this read. The pace never really gave me a break, but certainly strengthened my connection to the MC's and the horrific but

true life storyline.

Aestas Book Blog says

Here's my casting:

Both haunting and captivating from the first page, *The Missionary* takes readers on an action-packed, romantic and eye-opening journey that will hopefully serve to raise awareness about human trafficking.

I was drawn into the story from the first few pages and found myself unable to look away. The manner in which Wren was taken felt all too real and the subject matter is raw, chilling and hard to read in places. I think the fact that many elements of this story were based on reality gave each scene an extra strong impact.

However, the story is not 'too dark'. It's a nightmarish situation but there was also a strong romance throughout it and plenty of steam to ease the tension. If you've read Jasinda Wilder's *Wounded*, that book is a good comparison in terms of how this book "felt" to me. There were certainly gritty elements but overall, it was not solely a 'dark' book.

The ending was powerful and inspiring and I won't deny that I had tears in my eyes at the last words of the author's note. I commend Jack Wilder for tackling a sensitive but very real issue and bringing it into the light in such a way that will hopefully motivate people to get involved and reach out to help.

I felt these words so strongly:

"Be the difference."

4 stars

*** Please note that the reason this review is a little shorter and less detailed than my usual ones is because due to a computer glitch, I actually lost the entirety of my original review a few days ago and had to start over from scratch. So, the length of the review is not in any way a reflection of the book, but rather just of the unfortunate circumstance.*

For more of my reviews, book news and updates:

◆ ***Main blog: Aestas Book Blog***

◆ ***Facebook Blog Page***

◆ ***Twitter***

Allison ♥?Will Never Conquer Her TBR♥? says

Perfection! This will be one of those books that truly sticks with me. Although the subject matter, human trafficking, is very ugly, it's a realistic evil in our world. This book I devoured! Add a love story to the mix....perfect. Thanks Christy for the awesome review leading me to this gem!

Wren Morgan is an all-around great college age kid. She lives in the dorms, is very active in her church, and has a sweet innocence about her that draws people her way. Stone Pressfield is a musician in her church. He's an ex Navy-Seal, scarred both physically and emotionally from years of service in Special Ops. The chemistry between he and Wren is palpable but no matter how hard she tries to draw him out he pushes back. He's got demons that haunt his dreams and a guy like him doesn't deserve a sweet, innocent girl such as Wren.

When the church decides to embark on a missionary trip to Minila Philipines to build a Safe House for human trafficking victims, Stone is instantly against it. He pleads with his pastor to find another, less hostile and unsafe part of the world to save. His warnings go upon deaf ears. What makes matters worse, Wren signs up for the trip. Add Special Ops Security guard to his resume.....

Wren decides to go to the store with a few fellow missionaries in Manila. Unfortunately, she gets abducted by a human trafficker. American girls are top dollar in the Philipines. When Stone returns to find Wren gone, his Speical Ops training comes out. He just didn't plan on the one person he's falling in love with being the victim. He's been to Manila before. After all, it's scenes from here that spark his nightmares. This city where his comrades were killed. This isn't a person he's fighting, it's an organized crime operation that spreads throughout the country.....and Stone is one guy. No intelligence, no back up, just experience and a good memory with these thugs. He knows their ways....abduct these girls, drug them, beat and rape them, then sell off to the highest bidder. And an American girl like Wren equal lots of money.....

This book obviously delves deep into a very dark, sadistical world. A world most of us are seriously unaware of. When I watched the movie Taken by Liam Neilson, I was shocked at the issue of human trafficking. This book is much like the movie...except it's a love story and not a dad searching out his daughter. It's ugly, yes. Mr. Willder knows his stuff. While reading it, it was very apparent to me his research in the field of human trafficking, Special Ops. and the coalitions to fight such despicable human behavior. The husband of Jasinda Wilder, author of one of my favorite books, Wounded, both enlighten us to world affairs, not necessarily warm and fuzzy, added with mystery and suspense and a love story to top it off. If you haven't read Wounded, that's also one the few books I've actually took the time to personally recommend to my friends who like a bit darker read. This book also didn't disappoint. Oh, and the love story? Let's just say when the two come together, it's SCORCHING HOT. DAMN. I didn't know a male author could write such HOT love scenes. BRAVO. That sounded sexist.... Didn't mean it that way at all.

Can Stone rescue Wren from the world of drugs, and sexual slavery? It's one man versus an army of traffickers. If he does, will he risk it all to confess his love for Wren? Will she accept him scars and all?

Was the book a bit dark? YES

Was the book mysterious? YES

Suspenseful? HELL YES

Scorching sexy? YES

Would I recommend this to my friends who like something different, less mainstream romance? HELL YES!

Geri Reads says

◁Buddy Reading with Kim, Vera and .Chel

3.75 stars!

When I read in the blurb that the bulk of the story will be set in the Philippines, I was immediately intrigued. It isn't everyday that a book is set in my part of the world, so I was intrigued and excited to read this. Plus, my fellow GR girls, Kim, Vera and .Chel, whom I just recently found out also hailed from the Philippines, decided to do a buddy read, so I doubly excited.

While I wasn't 100% into the romance aspect of the story, I did love how Jack Wilder did his research. The way he described the streets in Manila, the desolation and the poverty were spot on. Of course, there are beautiful areas that didn't make it to the story but the whole atmosphere certainly lends itself to the darkness of the story.

I also loved that he used some Filipino words in there although not everyone pronounces "f" as "p" but enough people do. I did find it quite funny especially since I do know people who talked like that.

I also liked the action sequences. This isn't an easy book to read because of the topic but the action sequences made for a fascinating read.

I also liked the fact that while this is a dark book, it isn't like most dark romance book out there where the "victim" falls in love with her abductor. This book depicted slavery in a very graphic manner. It's raw and dark and it doesn't leave you with romantic feelings at all. I liked that. I'm glad that there's a book that actually paints sexual abduction and slavery for what it is and doesn't romanticize it.

Don't get me wrong though, there is romance in this story. I liked both Stone and Wren's characters. I wasn't into their romance as probably other readers were but individually, they were easy to connect to.

The weakest part of the book for me is probably the dialogue especially during those "romantic" scenes. It was a little bit cheesy for my taste. But that's just me. I was expecting a little more angst and grit in the dialogue but it didn't quite deliver for me. I couldn't quite figure out exactly what it was that's lacking but some parts of the dialogue just didn't do it for me.

Other than that, a very solid debut novel. I'm looking forward to read more from this author.

C-Money says

ARC PROVIDED BY AUTHOR FOR A HONEST REVIEW

6 "this book is in my bone marrow and running through my veins" Stars

I would like to start out this review by taking a moment to show some respect to all of those out there that have or are suffering from Human Trafficking. This shit is real, guys. It's happening in our own backyard. No one really discusses it and what we don't see, well we just don't think about it. But after reading this book, there is no way I can't think about it. Its REAL and it needs to be stopped

I would also like to say **BRA-FUCKING-O** to Mr. Jack Wilder for writing such a realistic, shocking and emotional book. I am bowing down to your greatness

This isn't a book and it shouldn't be taken lightly. It shouldn't be classified with the books. It needs it's own section on Amazon. It should be called " **BAM, did you feel that? That's this book smacking you on the back of your fucking head**" a bit long for a shelf name, but you get what I'm getting at.

It isn't something you can just sit down and read. You need a dark hole, a comfy blanket, tissues and complete isolation. This book felt like a movie. It felt like I was was watching an action packed, full throttle movie and I couldn't put it down. I had to know what was around the corner, but I didn't want to look because I was so freaking nervous about what I would find. I wanted to skip to the end, but it was just too beautifully written that I couldn't do that to myself. So I just kept reading. I was a ball of nerves the entire book.

I was describing this book to my husband on the way to pick up my girls yesterday. He wasn't getting how much i loved this booked. so here is what i said

ME: "Baby, you know when we are watching a high action packed movie, and I'm freaking out and I just have to know what is going to happen. So I go onto Imdb and I read the synopsis so I will stop freaking out?"

HUBBY: "yeah, i hate when you do that."

ME: "Well that is how fucking good this book is. I wanted to skip to the end, but I just couldn't do that"

HUBBY: "Wow, now that's a good book"

ME: "and a man wrote it."

HUBBY: "No way, a man"

ME: "Way. and you better watch out cause if a man can write like that, i might just go steal him"

HUBBY: "oh baby, good luck with that"

The book starts off in the here and now. We are taken to a very dark room and we are introduced to Wren. The way we are introduced to her is saddening and it pulls you into the story.

We are then taken back and introduced to Stone. He is an ex-navy guy, hard cord bad ass and can play the

guitar. Sign me up.

As the story progresses we are taken from the NOW then to weeks before. I think he did this so smoothly that I wasn't confused or caught off guard.

Wren is trying to stay alive and she knows that Stone will come for her. Its in his nature, he won't let her disappear. She just needs to fight and that's exactly what Wren is. She is a fighter. I am in awe of her resolve. She never gave up.

Stone is a hardcore weapon. That is how I would describe him. He is a weapon. He is trained to kill and that's exactly what he will do for Wren. He overpowers everyone who tries to stop him.

He would go to the depths of hell to bring Wren back and that's exactly where his journey took him. He has to do some gnarly shit. Jack describes these scenes in such great detail, that I shuttered when I read them.

There is no question as to what he feels for her. He doesn't think he deserves those feelings and he doesn't think anything will ever happen, but he will fight to find her.

But there wasn't just action and brutality, there was love and sexy sexy sexy scenes. Man can this man write a love scene. I'm fanning myself right now just thinking about it. You would think with the nature of this book, that having scenes like those in this book would be distasteful, but it added so much depth and so much more to the book. It was perfection and it was exactly what the characters needed.

Wren turns out to be BAD ASS. But if Cervantes did the things to me that he did to her, my bad ass side would come out, too. I am so glad she found this side of her right when she needed it the most.

This book is a work of art. It's beautiful, yet Ugly. It's magical, yet dark and disturbing. It's eye opening, gut wrenching, truthful, disgusting, shocking, and way out of this world brilliant. When I finished this book, I had goosebumps all over my body.

This may be the most realistic book I have ever read. If I could I would give Jack Wilder a high 5, a pat on the back, a fist pump and I would buy him one hell of a drink. He knocked this one out of entire galaxy.

6 star review for me and I will be adding another Author to my favorite shelf.

.Karéz. says

5 Stars.

Note: This book is based on **True** events. The events are still happening while i'm writing my review.

The missionary becomes the mission

The Missionary is a Thrill, mind blowing, hot, full of action Story. I simply couldn't put it down.!

Wren Morgan . is a college student, her life is full of happiness, great friends and family. **Stone Pressfield** . was a soldier, A warrior. after being injured badly on a mission. He'd attend a private christian school, where he now volunteered. Wren the student who always caught his eyes. Although the feelings that they both have for each other is mutual. Stone never let himself get too close to her.

Despite being a Staff, and she was a student. Stone knew that wren deserved much better than a broken Ex-Navy SEAL .

The Church missions a trip to **Manila, philippines**. to help victims of the sex-trafficking industry. A marvelous idea. yet full of danger. Stone tries to stop this trip in any way possible. because he will knows that it could end in violence. **But** no use! They are set to go. the least thing stone to do is go with the group, and try his best to protect them.

Stone points out some Rules:*No one goes anywhere Alone. always stay in a group. and No one ever leave the hostel without him.*

The days went smoothly. and stone felt a bit relieved. only a couple days left and they'll all go back home. Not until one day a group leaves the hostel without stone. to buy some water in a corner store which was barely a hundred feet away from the hostel. just like that Wren vanishes... poof!! She's obviously taken by the Trafficking dealers.

By now stone knows who took her. and he's the only one who know how to save her from that cruel, bastard man.

From now on. the action won't stop, you'll have an eye-opening through the whole events. and i was really touched with how they fall in love with each other. even though being in a middle of chaos.

To be honest. at first i was not that into the story very much. i was having a difficult time liking the heroine (wren). **But** after 30% i was so hooked. LOVED Stone and wren's Characters. and truly the Author's way of writing is so captivating.

The Missionary is not an easy read. even if you read it! please don't judge it in a negative way. because the story shows the sex-trafficking issues in a close way. It delivers a great message.

“Slavery didn’t end when Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. Slavery still happens. Right now, today, this very second, there’s someone in chains, locked away until the next time someone pays to have involuntary sex with them. They’re drugged, starving, naked, and alone. No one is going to rescue them. This event, as incredible as it is, as many people are here donating their time and their money and their talent, isn’t even a drop in the bucket. It doesn’t even begin to touch the problem. But it’s a start.”

Christy says

5 Stars!

The Missionary was packed full of action, suspense, romance and steam. Somewhat dark and disturbing, but also beautiful. Fluid and effortless writing, once I started this one, I didn't want to put it down! Loved it!?

In *The Missionary* we meet Wren and Stone. Wren is a college student, her life seems relatively perfect. She has a crush on Stone, who helps lead the music at her church's college group. Stone is an ex-Navy SEAL. One of his childhood friends is a youth pastor, who can't play music to save his life so Stone helps out. Stone and Wren have an obvious connection from the beginning. Stone feels like Wren is out of his league, that he isn't right for her. The things he's done, the things he's seen, he's not good for someone so sweet and innocent. So he makes sure things stay friendly between them, that's all. He keeps his distance.

Stone's friend comes up with an idea. Go over to the Philippines with a group of volunteers and make a difference. Get prostitutes who have been forced to live this way or sold off the street. It's a great idea in theory, but very dangerous. Stone tries to warn the group off, but it's no use. They are set to go. The only thing he can do is tag along and do his best to keep everyone safe.

No one goes anywhere alone. No group goes anywhere without Stone. Call him paranoid, but he has seen some ugly things in his service, and he wants everyone safe. One night, a group goes out without Stone. Just to the corner store to get some water. Wren vanishes out of thin air. She's been taken. By the bad guys, the guys who buy and sell women. Wren is terrified but she can't give up hope. She has to believe Stone will find her.

Fear keeps you alert. It keeps you alive. If you're afraid, you're still fighting to stay alive.

Stone knew this trip was a terrible idea. He felt it in his gut, and now he knows why. He has to get Wren out. No matter what he has to do, he has to get to her before it's too late. If anyone can do it, he can. It's what he was trained to do.

From here on out, there is a lot of action. A lot of violence. A lot of moments that make you hold your breath and make your heart beat fast. I loved this element of the story. It was unpredictable and suspenseful. But all my romance lovers, don't you fret... there was also a beautiful love story going on even with all the craziness. When you are faced with a life and death situation, and all you have is each other... well, the feelings that were already lingering there start to grow.

'Don't say it yet, Stone. Not until we're home. No matter how many times we do this until then, don't say it. I need that to look forward to. I know it, I see it. But don't say it.'

Stone... a sexy alpha male if there ever was one! Stone was the ultimate protector. I loved him! It wasn't easy for him to go back into that 'war' mindset, but he couldn't lose Wren. He had to do everything in his power to make sure she was safe. Wren wasn't some little damsel in distress either. She made some tough and smart choices, and even kicked a little ass herself at one point. I loved the two of them together. They just fit.

One warning to fellow readers: The subject matter may be a little difficult for some to read. The story goes inside the sex trafficking issue that is happening all over the world. You get to see a bit of the nitty gritty. It reminded me of my favorite Jasinda Wilder book (Wounded) in that way. I loved how the author wasn't afraid to show the not so pretty side of something. I have been a Jasinda Wilder fan for a while now, ever since I read Wounded and Falling into Us. I can officially say I am a Jack Wilder fan as well! How can a wife AND husband both be so talented?

Honest, intense and well written, *The Missionary* is a really great book I would highly recommend!

Michelle says

**** 5 STARS****

"Fear keeps you alert. It keeps you alive. If you're afraid, you're still fighting to stay alive. When you stop feeling fear, you've stopped caring whether you live or die."

The Missionary by Jack Wilder was an eye-opening and riveting story that raises public awareness on a tough and difficult subject matter of sex trafficking. Wilder exposes his readers to the real, raw, and gritty topic that is on an ongoing world problem that no one wants to talk about. This book was packed full of action, suspense, and romance. It was beautifully well written and I felt like I was watching a movie. Once I started reading this book, I could not put it down and had to devour it one sitting.

In *The Missionary*, we are introduced to Stone Pressfield, an ex-Navy Seal, who helps lead the music at his friend's church ministry group, where he meets Wren Morgan. Wren is a young, sweet, friendly college girl who has a crush on Stone. There is an attraction and connection between the two but Stone tries to distance himself from Wren, feeling that he is no good for her.

Stone's friend, Pastor Nick decides to lead a ministry outreach service in the Philippines where they will try to help with sex-trafficker victims and prostitutes get off the street. Stone thinks this is a bad and dangerous idea and urges the ministry group to change their minds but to no avail.

Stone and the group of volunteers head to Manila. He urges everyone to stick together and is paranoid of the dangers lurking. Well, a group of volunteers including Wren decides to go to the corner market to get some water and snacks and suddenly Wren vanishes. She is drugged and kidnapped by a group of bad guys where she will be sold to a local sex-trafficker.

Wren experiences and goes through what no human should have gone through. She is beaten, violated, drugged, starved and fears for her life and safety when she knows she is going to be sold like cattle at an

auction. At her captors house, she witnesses young girls being abused, drugged, violated and forced to perform sexual acts. Wren's only hope is to fight back and believe that Stone will come and rescue her.

With Stone's ex-Navy SEAL training and knowledge of the sex-trafficking ring, he goes and hunts down the people who have kidnapped Wren. From this point on, there is a lot of violence. Readers are put on a fast action packed thriller suspense where Mr. Wilder will keep you at the edge of your seats and holding your breath. With all the craziness of the rescue and trying to get back home to the States, we were able to witness the beautiful steamy love story of Wren and Stone.

The Missionary is something that really needs to be experienced by the reader. It will take its reader into the deep, dark, terrifying, disgusting world of sex trafficking. It will expose the daily struggles, pain, hardship its victims and survivors face on a daily basis. The Missionary was like watching a movie that's a mixture of the film Taken and Jason Bourne. This book had me on the edge of my seat and completely consumed me. I didn't want Wren and Stone's story to come to an end. So I highly recommend everyone to read this book. I commend Jack Wilder for writing this book. The ugly facts and truths of sex and human trafficking must be exposed in order for changes to be made.

Jack Wilder

Angie says

FULL RECOMMENDATION AND FAVORITE QUOTE ON SMUTBOOKCLUB.COM

The Missionary is tough to read. The subject matter is raw, real, and disgusting. It is not a fantasy. You would never wish what happens in this book on your worst enemy. Unfortunately, it's something we should read and know about. Without reading the book, it may not seem like it should be a story with romance and sex, but it absolutely finds its place and is understandably appropriate. And it doesn't hurt that these Wilders know how to pen a steamy love scene. Woah.

Jacqueline's Reads says

5 Crazy My-heart-can't-take-it, I-need-valium, BUT I-love-it STARS!!!!

I'm a huge Jasinda Wilder fan and by huge, I mean, scary-stalker-girl-crush fan, so when I heard her husband, Jack Wilder, was writing a book, I was like I don't care if it's about elephants taking a dump, I'm gonna read it.

I've read a few books from male authors like Jo Nesbo, Stieg Larsson and Kurt Vonnegut, and of those are fabulous authors to me. So, when I saw The Missionary's cover, I thought to myself, oh this is going to be like a Jo Nesbo book, a big mystery with a touch of romance.

OH NO

BIG FAT WRONG

THE MISSIONARY IS NO ORDINARY BOOK

let me explain

When I read the blurb and I saw, sex trafficking, I knew I was done for. I had to read it. I didn't care if Jesus walked into my house and told me not to, I would say really Jesus? Yeah right and then proceed to read this book.

The Missionary is like one BIG action movie where you will be gripping the edge of your seat and glued to your pages until you are done. Stone and Wren go on a church mission trip to the Philippines. The church wants to save the girls who are part of the sex-trafficking industry. Stone is EX-Navy SEAL (HELLO!), who understands it takes more than a group of young kids from a church group to do any real damage, but Wren and everyone in the group are, determine to do good. So off they go to help and ****GASP**** Wren gets kidnapped.

It's no secret I love kidnapping books. I gobble these up like turkey on Thanksgiving. The darker the better? Yes. The grittier, please. Do I like, oh-my-god, did-that-really-happen kind of books? You can bet I do. I don't know why I love reading about kidnapping and sex slavery theme books, there is just something so raw about it.

The Missionary isn't the lightest of reads. There are a few dark scenes, but the book needed them. On top of this, it's a very descriptive book. I usually cringe against descriptive writing because I'm a dialogue kind of girl, but Wilder paints a beautiful description of the area and I felt like I was there. I felt for Stone and I felt for Wren.

I have to say it! Shout out to my Asian ladies. Wren is Filipino! It's not every day I read a book where the leading Heroine is Asian and yes, when I read one where she is, it does something to me. It's just nice to be represented. For all of those who wondering, I'm Vietnamese, so I especially love the Pho reference. Don't know what that is? Look it up.

Oh Stone, he's awesome, he's epic, he's well, like his name a Stone. Do I love his name? Yes, yes I do. I think Stone is an excellent name for a Hero. Wilder created a badass hero, I could one hundred percent picture ex-military guy busting in to save the day. He's beefy, manly and really smart.

If shit gets hairy, get out of the way and stay out of the way until I get you.

The Missionary is more than a "save the girl" read. There are many layers and many and many shifts. Just

when I think I know where it's going, something happens and I'm thrown in a different direction. It's action pack! I could seriously watch this as a movie.

This book does have steam people! Oh lord, thank you for those parts. I had everything I could think of, face-pace writing, with great leading characters and gut-wrenching story-line.

The Missionary will definitely take you on a crazy journey and leave an impression on you. I'm just glad I am happily married, or Mrs. Jasinda would think I'm macking on her man. Because seriously, I'm a Jack Wilder fan. Well, I'm just a Wilder fan period.

An ARC was provided in exchange for an honest review

For more reviews, please visit, Jacqueline's Reads

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Georgia ♥ Team Dex ♥ says

4 Brutally Real Stars

“Slavery didn’t end when Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. Slavery still happens. Right now, today, this very second, there’s someone in chains, locked away until the next time someone pays to have involuntary sex with them. They’re drugged, starving, naked, and alone.”

Sometimes fiction reflects life. It takes reality and smacks you in the face with it, forcing you to admit what you know it's the truth. Women and men sold as livestock. Slaves to the highest bidder. Abused beyond comprehension, broken sometimes beyond repair.

This is happening right now around the world and this is the story of Wren. The young girl that her only mistake is that she wanted to help.

Wren Morgan, a young adopted American woman of Filipino decent, goes with a church mission to Manila to help girls that are sold to slavery. But she is abducted herself and she is forced to a nightmare of drugs and abuse from which she can't escape, unless the man she loves will heed her prayers.

Stone Pressfield, is an ex-Navy Seal that has faced the truth of human trafficking. He lost his friends and station trying to save women. He fears that the same will happen again, that's why he is helping with mission's security. But he can't be everywhere and the unthinkable happens. The woman he is afraid to admit that he cares about is taken and he is her only hope to freedom.

“Fear keeps you alert. It keeps you alive. If you’re afraid, you’re still fighting to stay alive. When you stop feeling fear, you’ve stopped caring whether you live or die.”

Together they will try to escape and fight the demons. Run to safety and heal their wounds. Take action and raise awareness. Break our heart with the fragility of the victims and reality of the situation. The nightmare doesn't end when you are free, because the memories haunt your days and nights.

“I’m not here. Does that sound crazy? Like I got left behind, somehow. Part of me is still over there. Still in Manila, in that hole, that fucking black hole with the bugs and the drugs and the darkness and him.”

A great book and a story that will stay with me. A book about action, apathy and the consequences of it. Brutal and emotional, a ray of hope in a dark truth that we all have to admit.

Do something selfless. Leave the world a better place than when you entered it.

Mara De Guzman says

Okay.

Great cover.

The book setting is in Manila, Philippines?

I am from Manila, Philippines!

Interesting.

Vanessa says

*****Title generously provided by the author in exchange for my honest review*****

Amazing book--awesome message! Review to post tomorrow (10/13).

*****FULL REVIEW*****

“Fear. Not just the simple too-fast thumping of her heart and clenching of her stomach. No, this was deeper, powerful beyond comprehension. This was pure, unadulterated terror. She couldn’t summon the reason for the terror, but it was there, tainting everything. It was why she didn’t call out, ask for help. She was tied up in the darkness, in pain, and some instinct told her to stay quiet. Avoid attention.”

Wren Morgan is just a normal, American, college girl. She’s rooted in her faith and has a genuine love for everyone. She’s always the first to help, comes early and leaves late from the building where she and many

other students attend Church services, prayer meetings, and songs in worship. It's just the kind of girl she is. Wren is what one would call the "total package", but she only has eyes for one...one man who seems hell-bent on keeping her farther than arms-length...Stone Pressfield.

You see, Stone carries a burden in his heart, his mind, his very being; one that he cannot share and because it haunts him daily, he cannot escape. Wren wants to know him, and wants him to know her. There is a connection...but believing in God and having complete faith are two separate things, and some things should never be seen in order to believe. In Stone's eyes, he would never measure up to the purity and innocence that is Wren Morgan.

"He wasn't a good Christian. He was a soldier, and he believed because he'd seen the truth. He'd experienced death and felt the presence of God. He'd witnessed miracles...He'd seen the worst in humanity and dealt death to the scum of the earth. He'd also seen true heroism and courage, seen sacrifice and the power of faith...So yeah, he believed. But his was the kind of faith grounded in gritty reality...beyond the narrow field that these kids experienced."

Both belonging to the same Church organization, but on opposite sides of the spectrum, Wren and Stone face the same dilemma many people in their situation might...but that's not what's important. No, this story goes way beyond the connection of two people...it's dark, haunting, and out-right terrifying.

Something as simple as a school mission trip; they happen every day all over the world. A way to bring awareness to various causes, aide to those in need, and share Spirituality & Faith with people otherwise deprived. But the mission trip Wren's Church decides on is just dangerous. They are going to Manila, Philippines; going to bring awareness and aide to people who are victims of sexual slavery and/or human trafficking. **HELLO—RED FLAG!** Everything about this trip screams **DANGER**. Stone knows this in his gut, something he was trained a long time ago to always trust...and begging Wren not to go is no use. She sees the opportunity to do a few things: help those in need, raise awareness for this very real issue, and learn about her heritage. Never in a million years does ANYONE think that something so horrible could happen to them...but Stone knows all too well, it can and does happen. Now, he's forced to return to the one place he hoped he'd never have to...because he knows that whatever the cost, he will keep Wren (along with everyone else) safe.

"'Home. I want...I want to go home.' She tried to summon thoughts of home, but nothing came...It felt like she'd been in Manila forever. Like the person she'd been was gone, and someone else had taken that place. She was still Wren Morgan, still had the same brain and body and soul, but the fabric and substance and content of who she was had been irrevocably altered."

The horrifying story of being kidnapped in broad daylight, drugged, beaten, raped...this really happens. And while this book is a work of fiction, the subject is a very real issue. I was completely hooked from the very first chapter. The detail of Wren's encounters with her captors is absolutely gut-wrenching to read. And the stories shared by other women who had been victims...yes, I cried. This book is heavy...heavy subject matter that most people choose to turn the other cheek towards. The statistics are staggering (and those are real) for how sick and terrifying our world really is. The words on each page are pure gold...although embellished because hey, it's fiction, there is so much information to absorb. To say I loved it would be wrong...I didn't love it. How can I? The Missionary evoked such a strong emotional reaction out of me, love is entirely the wrong word. I don't even know if I have the right word(s) to describe this book. I couldn't do it justice. Jack Wilder is so talented in the way he pulls the reader in, keeps them guessing how things will turn out, and still managing to weave a love story into an otherwise tragic telling of abduction, abuse, drugs, sex, life, death, faith and hope.

stands and claps hands

Well done, Mr. Wilder. You are an amazing writer and this is proof that heavy topics can be tragic, yet beautiful...but most of all, informative and educational. At the end of the day, this book has done its job; it made me think and feel, but most importantly, it opened my eyes to something very real and has encouraged me to want to make a difference. For that, along with this amazing book, I thank you. ~V~

****5 Not Broken, Just Bent Stars****
