



The Heart

Kate Stewart

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Jack

For the last ten years, I've roamed the globe, captivated by the world around me. I've seen the seven wonders and admired sunsets from every continent. I'd lived and loved and that was enough for me. It would have to be.

I was content, satisfied with my collection of experiences . . . until a phone call led me down a road less traveled.

If I'd known my fascination would pique and be forever quenched only a few hundred miles from where my curiosity had been born, I may have never set sail.

Rose

Stripped of the future I'd planned with the love of my life, my family and my career were now all that mattered. I'd lived and loved and that was enough. It would have to be.

I struggled to move forward, to discard the part of me that held out hope for my obliterated heart. But I was bred a romantic, so it was easier said than done.

The chances of being struck by lightning are 1 in 960,000.

The odds of being struck twice are 1 in 9 million.

I risked those odds every minute, often cursing the dark sky, praying for static and a rumble of thunder, but it never came.

No, that second bolt hit me on a clear day.

The Heart can be read as a stand alone but it is HIGHLY recommended you read the first two books in the series first.

The Reluctant Romantics Series

The Fall

The Mind 1.5

The Heart

Books that compliment the series (Room 212, Never Me.)

Explicit Sex and Strong Language

The Heart Details

Date : Published April 30th 2016 (first published March 2016)

ISBN :

Author : Kate Stewart

Format : 263 pages

Genre : Contemporary, Romance

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From Reader Review The Heart for online ebook

Angela (Reading Frenzy Book Blog) says

4.5 stars

*** This review contains possible spoilers pertaining to The Fall and The Mind. ***

“The greatest adventure of my life has been loving you.”

Having read The Fall and The Mind, I was more than ready for Rose to find happiness again. I had high expectations for this book, and Kate Stewart absolutely delivers.

It's been three years since Rose's tragic loss. She's done her best to pick up the pieces of her life, and for the most part she's been successful. Immersing herself in her career has helped her cope. She's now a top-notch surgeon, and she and her sister, Dallas, are months away from opening the cancer treatment center they've dreamed of forever. She hasn't let go of Grant, though, and her heart is closed off to the idea of being with another man.

Along comes Jack, a charismatic contractor from New Orleans. An attraction quickly develops between Rose and him, even though they are polar opposites. Jack is fun and easy going, whereas Rose is stubborn and has a quick temper. She's rooted to work and family, while he's a free spirit who travels the world. Jack awakens familiar and frightening feelings in Rose, but does loving another man diminish what she had with Grant?

Oh, Jack, how I love thee! Let me count the ways. Forget it. I can't count that high. He cooks, he dances, he's got that Cajun accent going for him, he's sexy as hell—and that's just the start. He also has a knack for saying heart-melting things.

“I want your breaths, your minutes, your movements, and to be included in your memories. I want to be the man you run to. I want to be significant. I want you. It's that simple.”

Come on! How does a girl stand a chance against that? Rose's reluctance to enter into a relationship with Jack is more than understandable, but her two steps forward, one step back attitude and mixed signals had me screaming, “If you don't want him, I'll take him!” Fortunately for her, Jack is more than patient.

Time and again, Kate Stewart delivers the most superb quotes to completely gut me.

“My heart...was rooted to her. Subtly and without me being truly aware, it had planted itself here next to her. But I was unwanted, a weed growing wild in someone else's future.”

I really admired Rose. She may be wounded, but she's a survivor and not at all bitter. Her relationship with her nephew is absolutely precious, and the interactions with her girlfriends are hysterical.

There's a situation towards the end that I found to be a bit cliché and the resolution rather abrupt and underwhelming. However, it's a small bump in the road in an otherwise delightful journey.

Kate Stewart has a knack for creating engaging stories and heart-felt characters that completely envelop you in another world. That's certainly the case here. *The Heart* is emotional, sexy, and humorous—a wonderfully romantic conclusion to an amazing series.

Recommended for fans of:

Second-chance romance

Nice guys

Cajun dialects

***ARC received in exchange for an honest review. ***

Jan says

And 27 books later...

Finally!

A 5 Stars read +++++

No, seriously.

It's been too long since a book gave me this overwhelming magic feeling.

I needed this so much.

Thank you, Kate Stewart <3

Note: Reading Order for The Reluctant Romantics Series

The Fall - 2.5**

The Mind 1.5 (Novella for Grant and Rose) - 4.5****

The Heart 5*****+++++

Paige says

5 "You Own Me" Stars

There are times when a series grabs you and makes you feel all the things you never knew you could feel. The Reluctant Romantics is that series for me. I fell hard for the angst journey Dallas and Dean took in The Fall. I laughed and sobbed my way through Rose and Grant's heartbreak journey in The Mind. And I

laughed, cried (happy tears, mostly), and smiled in pure happiness in *The Heart* while Jack helped Rose rebuild her life. This book is everything I love about reading. Once I started, I could not put it down. It may be Kate Stewart's best work yet and I'm still riding the high from this emotional and beautiful journey.

Rose has suffered unimaginable heartbreak. She lost her best friend and fiancee Grant in a car accident one week before their wedding. For the next three years she's focused on finishing her training to become a surgeon, her niece and nephew and trying to keep Grant's memory alive. But what she's finding is that she's stagnant. She can't let go even, though, she's starting to realize it's time. But true love doesn't end just because the other person isn't there anymore and she still mourns what was so tragically taken from her. Yet the knew contractor helping build her and her sister's dream cancer center finally makes her realize what she hasn't had in so long.

Jack has put his past behind him. He, too, has suffered tragedy but has taken steps to get past it. He traded in his suit and collar job for working with his hands and traveling. When his mentor Seth, Rose's dad, asks for his help designing and building his daughters' medical practice, he gladly lends a hand. It doesn't hurt that he meets Rose and is instantly taken by her. But Rose's obvious reluctance to start anything more than friendship and his deep affection for her dad make him wary to delve too deeply into his feelings. However spending time together proves a catalyst that neither can ignore. Rose and Jack fall into a comfortable, quiet relationship that only builds in intensity as time moves on. Yet neither has been completely honest and old demons never stay buried.

The Heart is a standalone yet is a continuation of a series. I think you'll get the most out of it by starting at the beginning but it can be read on its own. While this really starts years after Rose's story first began, we're given a look into her life with Grant with chapter breaks and chapter headings. I loved those. I smiled and swallowed the lump in my throat each time but it was a perfect way to transition the story. Plus even with such sad subject matter, I found myself giggling and laughing out loud on several occasions. Kate did a fabulous job of balancing this story and making me really feel like I was on Rose's path right alongside her. Her heartbreak and guilt and joy at falling for Jack was honest and true to her story and her character.

And Jack. Oh my sweet Jack. He was the light that shined throughout the whole story. You'd think it would be hard to follow in Grant's footsteps but he was so perfect for Rose and her growth. Just like Rose, I didn't love Grant less, just differently. Jack had his own struggles but he was always so open and honest and just so real. He had a quiet intensity to him and a depth I found refreshing. He was also so sexy and take charge. Absolutely yummy in the car, in the bed room, the hall way, you get the picture. While both he and Rose made mistakes, by the end I was just so in love with them and their full circle love story.

I also cannot forget to mention that epilogue. It was TO DIE FOR. Seriously. Best series ending ever. Now I just need to go start at the beginning again because I just cannot let these characters go yet. They have become some of my very favorite and I won't soon forget them.

ARC provided to A is for Alpha B is for Books for honest review.

Sharon ☺ is an emotional book junkie ☺ says

4 ★'s

If you've read *The Fall* and *The Mind*, you can understand my hesitation with reading this book. Jack Sawyer

has a lot to measure up to.

Rose has had her heart broken and is just now breaking through that fog that she's been functioning through for the last few years. She has a great support system with her family and a whole lotta love but her life is not complete.

Jack is like a breath of fresh air. He *awakens* things in her...things that make her feel like a young, healthy, vibrant woman and she just can't get enough.

And did I mention that Jack is from NOLA? *shivers* I just love all that yummy cajun stuff, "beb"!

But I felt that Jack was a little *too* perfect. He has all the bells and whistles and then some. However, we do find out there's been some things in his past but I just wanted to know more.

And the push and pull between these two was a little maddening. They both have issues with different things but luckily, the physical part doesn't suffer...these two were quite steamy. I had to laugh at Rose's first ride on Jack's motorcycle!

I enjoyed all the family being involved. There were some really sweet things still happening with Seth and Laura and I love the ongoing relationship between Dean and Dallas. And their kids were the cutest! ("Aunt Wose" <--love that kind of stuff)

Things come to a head and there is some drama but I was hoping for more (of course). Fortunately, I was happy with the way things worked out and getting the future updates in the epilogues was priceless.

So, did Jack measure up? Yes, Jack was amazing and while I appreciated Rose's conflicting feelings, it was hard for me to let go as well.

Rachel Reads Ravenously says

Full review now posted

4 stars!

If you have not read The Fall or The Mind, there will be spoilers for those books in this review.

I loved The Fall and The Heart by Kate Stewart, so when I saw she was writing another book in the series my mind was made up that I was reading it, no questions asked. I was a bit apprehensive about reading this one, because I cried reading both of the first two books, The Mind itself was just sobbing embarrassingly for hours. Luckily, I only ALMOST cried when reading this book but ONLY because I was in public and needed to keep my act together. If I had been in private, I would have cried.

"My life had started a long time ago and had begun to leave me behind."

The Heart is the story of Jack and Rose (no not the ones from Titanic, but these two do have quite a love

story). Rose had lost her fiancé Grant just before her wedding a few years back and she's barely coping with it years later. Throwing herself into her work, Rose has surrounded herself in a comfortable way of life, and one where she doesn't move on from Grant.

Jack comes in when Rose's father hires him to work on the new treatment center Rose is building with her sister. There's an instant attraction between the two of them, but Jack is looking for serious and Rose has no idea what she wants. But with the ghost of Grant around her at all times, can she let him go and move on? Or honor his memory instead?

“A majority of my grieving had to do with the fact that I had known a love so incredible, so unique, I was sure I’d never be given the same gift twice.”

Kate writes beautiful and emotional books, it's the reason I love them and her as an author. This is such a heartfelt story and I think it will touch a lot of readers with what it has to say. For me, when I read a book, the character needs to change, they need to come out of the book different from where the book started, and Kate accomplished this tenfold. Rose was in a place where she didn't realize she was existing, and not living. And at its heart, this book is about Rose coming back into the woman she can be and the life she was meant to live.

I really liked Jack as a hero, because he wasn't a jerk, or an alpha hero. He was a good guy with his own insecurities and wants, and what he wanted was a place in Rose's heart. I like that he was up front with what he wanted but knew it was also up to Rose to choose him. He knew she had walls and he wanted to be the one to break them down, but Rose had to break down some of the walls herself and respected that.

If you want to read a lovely romance story, I recommend this book and series to you. She's a great writer and this was an engaging book. I cannot wait for you to read Rose and Jack's story.

“You’re in my head, my thoughts, you’ve completely invaded me, whether you wanted to or not.”

ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review

Stacey is Sassy says

SPOILERISH IF YOU HAVEN’T READ THE FALL OR THE MIND

The journey was hard, but the ending was sweet.

4.5 Stars

I started *The Heart* needing to see a rainbow coming through the clouds. I wasn't altogether convinced that a storm wouldn't be brewing, but I was desperately hoping for a little sunshine. I finished *The Mind* completely devastated. A love so strong was not supposed to be bumped out so quickly or easily. Would the author be able to convince me that their love would be easy to move on from? No. See, this story wasn't about moving on and getting past a lightning strike love, it was about accepting a love that will never go away and learning to love yourself enough to find a happy place.

Rose is busy and she likes it that way. All of her plans have started to come together nicely, but that doesn't mean she hasn't shed blood, sweat, and tears for them. Rose is still finishing off her surgical internship while also trying to get the clinic built and ready. Keeping busy, there is no time for Rose to really deal with the loss of Grant. She has made it her main focus to remember him fully every day of her life. She doesn't want him to be forgotten so she purposely remembers all of their best times together. This has left her tired and very alone. Rose now lives in the house they dreamed of together, but it's really just a shell, not a home. Dallas, her sister, a fellow doctor and part owner of the clinic, now has Dean, her husband, and two beautiful children Grant and Annabelle to keep her busy. With Dallas busy with family commitments and the clinic on top of that, the two of them do not have much of a life outside of the clinic and family.

Jack...Oh Man!!! He is one amazing character. Jack has been friends with Seth, Rose's Dad, for years. As a building contractor, he started working in the clinic where he meets Rose for the first time. Everyone else considers him almost a family member, but with Rose's full study and surgical internship she has never been introduced to him before. When they finally meet, there is a sizzling attraction that neither Jack nor Rose can deny...even though Rose tries REALLY HARD to deny. Jack is a very good looking man but funny enough, he's not very confident about his looks. Once we get to know him a bit better, it's easy to understand why. It's easy to understand why he is uncomfortable with the unwanted attention he gets from women he comes in contact with. His way of pushing away those advances were an absolute crack up. Jack is very attracted to Rose but he can tell that she is holding herself back from forming a relationship with him.

With each reminder of Rose and Grant's love story, I found it hard to move on from it. Then Jack would pop up and be his cool and unassuming self and I would really hope that Rose grew the strength to move on. Jack is wonderful and he deserved a love of his life just as much as Rose did. Rose just had to believe that lightning CAN strike twice.

I really enjoyed watching this love story play out. At times I was torn on whether I wanted Rose to be Jack's "one", but then I saw the good things they brought out in each other and I believed they were meant to be together. To be honest, for a while there I really couldn't tell you who was the better life mate for Rose, because Grant was in her life for such a short period of time. Jack is no spring chicken at thirty-seven, and with his vast amount of travelling and living, you know that if he wasn't ready to settle down...he just wouldn't. So it really came time for ME to move on. I needed to come to terms that Grant was gone forever and Jack was ready to help Rose find happiness.

This was a steamy love story, but it certainly wasn't a meet and moan or insta-love. Jack didn't want it to be a hookup but unfortunately, Rose wasn't sure she was ready for more than a hookup. The additional characters were fun to get to know and I especially loved J & J and Dallas's two kids. My only little complaint, I kind of struggled with the women in this story. Rose and Dallas's dedication to their careers is not something I can relate to. For me, family comes first and in some ways I didn't think their supposed "balance" was believable. Still, Kate Stewart has again provided us with a wonderful heartfelt story that pulled at my emotions but managed to leave me content.

To purchase *The Heart* from Amazon - <http://amzn.to/1VYCJxs>

I'm an Aussie chick who loves to read and review romance, drink coffee, be a *Style Setter* and stalk David Gandy. To see more of my reviews, fashion, food and pervathons -

Dee Montoya says

5+++Very Romantic Stars*****

(ARC kindly provided by author)

Kate Stewart stole my heart with this story. Jack is a hero like no other and every aspect of this unique novel made my heart sing and my body dance in a beautiful rhythm, that will be impossible to forget.

The Feels!!!! The feels!!!!!!

As we know from reading the previous two books Rose lost what she believed was the great love of her life. She lives now in the house her and Grant had dreamt about on the beautiful land he gave her. She keeps his memory alive by locking herself away from the world inside the beautiful home that once held every beautiful promise for her future.

Rose is devoted to her job as a surgeon and her role as the aunt of her sister's kids. Now she looks forward to fulfilling her and Dallas's dream of building a cancer research and support center, that even before it's opening is already a success. Her father has hired the gorgeous and talented Jack Sawyer to design and assist in the construction of this special project. Rose knew he was coming from out of town but when she first sees him, she's speechless and completely breathless by the man's raw beauty.

Jack has lived a very interesting life. He has a very colorful family and has traveled the world and goes from city to city, creating beautiful landmarks. From the moment he sets eyes on Rose he is captivated by her beauty and charm. The more he gets to know her, the more he knows he wants all in, no games, no gimmicks, he wants her. Rose, on the other hand, is skittish around the subject of love, and even though she can't escape the strong emotions Jack stirs in her, she's scared to death to fall in love again.

Jack and Rose are the perfect combination of spicy and sweet. They become the shelter each of them needed from all the heartache and pain they've experienced in the past.

It won't be an easy road for them. Will Jack grow tired of Rose's insecurities? Will Rose realize it's okay to be happy again and to love again, after Grant?

There was so much love in this book, I thought my heart was going to burst. From Dallas, Dean, and their kids, both Jack and Rose's parents, it was all a grand love fest. The writing style of Kate Stewart in this book takes us to a whole new level of romance. She comes back each time with much more magic and beauty in her words. You would think the woman was the wizard of romance, and I'll tell you one thing, I have completely fallen under her spell. Her books feel majestic to me and any fan of the romance genre will be easily captivated by her amazing talent.

Before I finish my review, I must share with all readers that if you fell in love with Rose and Jack's parents, their love stories are available too as :

Room 212 (Laura and Seth) Rose and Dalla's parents:

<http://www.amazon.com/Room-212-Kate-S...>

Never Me:

<http://www.amazon.com/Never-Me-Kate-S...>

My *The Heart* music playlist:

*Only Love by ben Howard

*Kiss Me by Ed Sheeran

*Where It All Begins by Hunter Hayes, feat. Lady Antebellum

*Somebody To Love by Kacey Musgraves.

Kelli C ~ Jack Sawyer's Heart says

I admit that I stalked and begged for two days to get my hands on this arc as I was completely invested in Rose Whittaker. I read a short, passionate love story, *The Mind*, a few months back and was totally gutted over a fast love lost too soon. In just some 90 pages I felt an epic boom kind of love with the words and actions of Grant Foster, then I read the unyielding words of support from a strong family as that love no longer existed. Rose Whittaker loved Grant Foster, as fast and totally insane as it was, then she lost him. As her mind and her body broke with sorrow, I had no idea how Kate Stewart could "fix" this. Isn't one lightning strike in the heart enough?

As a passionate reader, I go thru books weekly, sometimes daily, and many are good reads. But every once in a while, a book comes along and literally matters, it just blows me away and leaves me shaken. Perhaps it is just the talent of Kate Stewart in her ability to tell a story. With a true gift, she uses words to evoke emotions of love and loss while developing characters that refuse to leave you own mind and heart. I can say undoubtedly that *The Heart* is MY BEST READ of 2016!

Because let's face it, when you give your heart away, you give the person you love the power to destroy you at will. Who you are at that moment defines who you will become next.

This is not just a love story...it is so much more. This read is a lesson in survival, or more it is an education in living without regret. *The Heart* is a tale of a man who once gave away his heart only to never experience the gift of it in return, and a woman who gave her heart only to have it lost...shattered. Jack Sawyer and

Rose Whittaker should never have been...but when the heart beats again, then finally hope lives!

A woman focused on her career and family, Rose may have lost her true self when she lost Grant. She may have had her moments of glee and fun with the times spent inside her circle of trust, but she is unprepared for a Cajun charmer with 10 years of worldly experience to stir her up. Jack Sawyer may have lived his life his own way, building from the ground up, but he too is unprepared for a fiery red head to make his need to flee suddenly calm...

Never have I ever been so affected by a fictional male character as I was with Jack Sawyer. With strength, patience, and a sexy but gentle hand, Jack found his way into the soul of Rose. With a flawless journey Kate Stewart slays every emotion as a man and a woman come to terms with “falling.” Tears fell as the mind and the heart grappled with the ideas of “am I enough?” and “who do you truly see?” I was gutted with each page. I felt the loss of a life once promised, yet I wanted so badly for a new chapter to come from the passionate intimacy that Jack and Rose found.

I could continue on and on just raving about the story and the characters, but I will simply say that this read is EVERYTHING for me. This is a book that I found myself highlighting on every page. This is a story that had me cry, true tears. These are characters that have become MY favorites. I had no idea if I could come up with the right review to capture how much I LOVED this book. The emotional angst was beautiful, the intimacy was off the wall scorching, and the passion to love again was riveting. If you are in search of a perfectly written romance, without a doubt, it is Kate Stewart’s *The Heart* and it is her best work yet!

**Patty Belongs To Kellan~Jesse~Lautner~Miller~Jack~Racer~Rafe~Liam~Prince
Nicholas~Hayes~Simon~Gianluca & Archer says**

*******FIVE++++++STARS*******

{ARC Generously Provided by Author}

I was paralyzed with my need for her. I didn't want to be anything else than the man I was when I was with her. No matter how much strength I found, she weakened me in a way only she could validate. I belonged to her.

And her heart belonged to another.

This story was utter perfection from beginning to end. Kate Stewart's writing is flawless and she couldn't have written a more perfect ending to Rose's story. She obliterated our hearts in *The Mind*, but she puts us back together and then some with **The Heart**. Ladies, there's a new book boyfriend in town, and his name is **JACK SAWYER!!** Get ready to be swept off your feet!!!

Those of you who loved Grant will not be disappointed as well because he is not easily discarded from Rose's heart. She clings to the love she had for that man with all that she has. Three years after his death and every day Rose has to will herself to get out of bed to go on with her life. She makes a conscious effort to think back to all of the precious times they shared in order to never forget the man who had been the greatest love of her life. Rose has put all her efforts into graduating from med school and into the plans for the new cancer center she is building with Dallas, but she has closed herself off from the opposite sex. She doesn't want to move on from Grant and she's not all that positive that lightning can strike twice in that department. She's about to meet the man who will definitely be challenging her beliefs. As soon as Jack Sawyer enters the story, it's hard not to be completely consumed by this man.

He's the architect her father hired to complete work on the cancer center. Jack is one seriously sexy Alpha male, ladies. He knows what he wants and he doesn't play games. Jack challenges Rose at every turn and he's exactly the man she needs. The chemistry between these two is definitely off the charts **HOT!!** The slow build to the sexy times had me clenching my thighs and panting till I almost thought I would combust, but oh was it so worth the wait when they finally get down to business. Mr. Sawyer is packing some serious heat in his boxer briefs.

As they start to spend more time together they each begin to develop deep feelings for each other. Can Rose move beyond her past or will she let her fears hold her back from true happiness? Is Jack willing to fill the shoes of a man who is virtually impossible to compete against?

Get ready to be swept away by this story of lost love and new love. I had a really hard time putting this one down. Not only was I crazy about Jack but I also thoroughly enjoyed all the funny and tender moments Rose shares with her beautiful family. Seth, Laura, Dean, Dallas and their children just helped to deliver this story

in the most perfectly wrapped package.

THE HEART is the third book in *The Reluctant Romantics* series, but can totally be read as a standalone. I HIGHLY recommend this entire series and I tell you, this is the way you end a series!!! It's been days since I read this one and I still can't get it out of my mind. I will definitely be reading it again sometime soon!!

BRAVO KATE STEWART!!!!

Lina's Reviews ♡????????? ♡??Book Blog?? ♡????????? ♡ says

ARC kindly provided in exchange for an honest review.

Title: The Heart

Author: Kate Stewart

Category: Contemporary Romance

Characters: 5

Plot: 5

HEA: Not telling

Eeks!!! I loved this book so much!

Kate Stewart has done it again!!! Her books always manage to speak to my heart and this one had my soul on fire!

We have met Rose before and we finally get to see her get through heartache and loss.

Enter Jack Sawyer. He is fun, sweet, handsome and a perfect match to Rose!

The book has everything; fantastic characters, romance and it's full of heart-stopping emotions. The author is one of my favorites and this book has managed to steal my heart.

If you want to feel, then The Heart is for you. Do not miss it.

5 Stars!!!

Kim Bailey says

Absolutely glorious! Kate Stewart has filled my heart with her beautiful story.

This was one of those books. You know the ones - you wait for them impatiently while you bite your nails and pretend that there are other books that can hold your interest until the day it arrives on your Kindle. I've been dying to get my hands on The Heart since I finished The Fall and was left with a feeling of beautiful satisfaction for one set of characters but aching heartbreak for another. It's the kind of book that, so eagerly anticipated, could easily let you down.

The Heart did not let me down.

The Heart lifted me up, spun me around, and filled my heart with love and joy.

I knew that all my (not so patiently) waiting would pay off from the very first page ... a quote from Anne of Green Gables kicks it all off ... a quote that I love, from a story that I love ... proving that people and their gifts come into your life just when you need them most. I read this book in just under 8 hours (with a few interruptions), staying up to 3am with the inability to put this book and its characters down.

Kate Stewart your characters and your beautiful words are a gift - YOU are a gift! And I'm so happy that you've come into my life with this gift, just when I really needed.

A phenomenal experience. A story of moving on from loss, moving on with love - moving me in the process. I recommend it to everyone!

** An advanced copy was provided for review. Thank you!*

Beverly says

I'd been waiting for a new life to start while staring in the rearview. If I wanted to change my life, my future required my attention.

I have been equal parts dying to read this story and terrified too. First, I love Rose and her beautiful heart, but I also loved her with Grant. From the moment, we met him I have been in love with his unconditional, full on head over heels love for Rose. So knowing how this story would go scared me, but I am so freaking glad I jumped in regardless of my fear.

The Heart picks up years after *The Mind* ends and Rose is getting by, but still a shell of the person she was before. She is doing her best to move on, but with that comes guilt and fear. Jack, a family friend, enters the picture because the center is about to open and needs some additional work.

Jack is immediately smitten with Rose, but can tell she is holding back. He pursues her, but it isn't too much he just what she needs. Their connection starts off slow, but I loved seeing the changes in Rose. I loved how Jack was patient, but still a man with a backbone. Jack isn't Grant and their story is different, but it still felt right for Rose.

I swear Kate cannot write a book that doesn't make me cry. Her books are always full of so much love and heart, but the beautiful way she delivers her stories is what has me begging for her next book. I love how she mingles **HUGE FEELS** with a story that is funny and sexy, it's the whole package!

"You make it hard to breathe, Rose Whittaker."

"And you make it easier for me."

I cannot recommend this book enough! I was so engaged in the story that I didn't even get up to check my phone or do anything until I was done. I couldn't get enough of Rose and Jack, and catching up with everyone else was just icing on the cake! Side note, little Grant, you stole my freaking heart!!

ARC kindly provided in exchange for an honest review.

Teasers created by me with stock images purchased from depositphotos.

S.M. West says

Many books tell beautiful tales of the heart. The light, the dark, the twisted, the ugly and the beauty of falling in love, losing love, getting stuck and unstuck. This series by Kate Stewart captures all of it with stunning characters, heart rendering stories and heartwarming prose. I must say this is my favourite book of this series. Rose is my favourite as is Jack and that's no small feat because all of these characters are special in their own way.

Rose is a grieving woman. Having lost her best friend and husband-to-be so tragically only days before their nuptials. It's three years since Grant's death but Rose is stuck. She's getting out of bed everyday but that's it. Life's going on and she's participating but only so far as is acceptable. Then she meets Jack. He's an old family friend, her father, Seth, is his sensei but Rose has never met him before.

I must stop here and say that Jack's the offspring from Kate's Never Me book. Simply loved how she brought two of her books together with this series being about Laura and Seth's, from Room 212, daughters. It's awesome to see those characters live on and meet their children and have their stories.

Jack was one utter delight. He's, of course, hot but he also has this magnetism that's unassuming but all consuming. He crept up on me real fast and I totally understood how Rose felt. He was just there one minute and the next, he's all she can think about. He was perfect for Rose.

And how Kate got me to move past Grant and fall fast and completely for Jack Sawyer was a miracle. I truly felt like Rose. I love Grant no less and no different than before but Kate gave us a story that shows the dynamics of love and the ability of the heart to love so much and so differently.

Jack helps Rose heal and move on with her life. Their story made me laugh, swoon and cry (both happy and sad tears). And the epilogue, the ultimate! I'm sad to see this series end but what an ending!

While the second book in a series, it can be read as a stand alone. Although, I'd strongly recommend you read all three books. Truly superb!

ARC generously provided by author in exchange for an honest review.

For more reviews and blog posts.

Christy says

5 stars!!!

“Love doesn’t have to hurt to be real. You reminded me of that.”

*?*possible spoilers for The Fall/The Mind- if you haven’t read them yet, proceed with caution...*

When I heard the main characters in this book were named Jack and Rose, I was sold already. I mean, come on. How much more epic can you get? Still, after reading *The Mind* I was equal parts nervous and excited for this. I loved Rose. I loved Rose and Grant so much. How in the world could Kate make another man as perfect for Rose as Grant was? Well, guess what? SHE DID IT. Jack Sawyer was as close to perfect as you can get for Rose. I guess you could say lightning struck twice for this well deserving heroine.

Rose is a career driven woman. After losing the love of her life a few years ago, she’s thrust herself full force into opening up a cancer center with her sister, Dallas. She is a very successful doctor, but being a doctor is her entire life right now. As the center becomes closer to the opening, one of her father’s friends, Jack, starts to come by and help.

Jack has spent the last decade traveling the world. He takes contracting and building jobs here and there, but he loves to be on the move. When he first meets Rose, he’s completely enthralled. There is something about this fiery red head and he can’t get her out of his head. The more time he spends with her, the worse it gets. For once in his life, he can picture a life with someone and not just one on the road.

“I can’t stay away from you. I can’t stop thinking about you. I can’t stop wanting to touch you... I can’t stop waking up without you being the first thing on my mind, and I haven’t even had you in one of the thousand ways I want to.”

Things aren’t easy for Rose. It’s hard for her to move on. She has already had the love of her life, or so she thinks. She can’t imagine ever being with someone else again in that way. It’s hard for her to wrap her mind around. As her feelings for Jack go deeper, it gets even more confusing for our heroine.

This story was executed perfectly. I can imagine it’s hard to get it right when the hero/heroine of the book already had one epic love. It can’t be easy to give them a second love that is just as strong as the first without completely overshadowing it or making it feel like it wasn’t as special as it was. I never once doubted Rose’s love for Grant. It was beautiful and special. But it wasn’t a once in a life-time love for this character. She was lucky enough to get it twice. And even though the journey for her love story with Jack wasn’t always easy, it was just as special and beautiful. Just as epic. I never doubted her love for Jack, either. Neither one took away from the other. They were equal, just different.

What I love most about Kate’s books is that she writes with heart. You can feel the love she puts into her words. This story gave me all the feels, made me believe that second chances for love do exist, and also made me laugh and smile more times than I can count. That Jack is a funny guy! I swear there were a few scenes with him that I was almost in tears from laughing so hard! Nothing is better in an emotional book like

this then getting to those parts where you smile and laugh.

The Heart is a story that is near and dear to my heart. After reading *Room 212* a few years ago, I fell in love with Seth and Laura. Then a year or so after that, it was Dallas and Dean. Then Rose and Grant's story came and it gutted me. Now that I've read the conclusion to Rose and Jack's book, I feel whole again. It completed this entire series for me. That epilogue was amazing.

I can't recommend this book, this series and this author enough. I have so much love for these books!!! If you're looking for a story with a ton of heart, that's emotional, sweet, sexy and even funny at times- check this one out!

"You've just made my life."

MELISSA *Mel Reader* says

5+++\ Stars!

(ARC provided by author)

(BR with Patty & Dee)

Rose Whittaker is a 28 yr. old woman living in Dallas, Texas who has given up hope for love. After the future she planned with the love of her life was abruptly taken from her, Rose has put all her focus on her career & her family. She is a dedicated surgeon who is finishing up her residency at Dallas Memorial, & then plans to open one of the largest Cancer treatment centers in Texas. Building this center on the land that brings her peace & serenity has become her dream. After suffering such loss, she is just living day by day trying to keep it together, when a gorgeous blonde man from New Orleans shows up on her property. His name is Jack Sawyer, & he's a contractor/architect that is friends with Rose's father. He was hired to install the medical equipment at the center. The chemistry between Rose & Jack is undeniable & it shocks Rose. She didn't think a man could still affect her like this, & begins to wonder if lightning can strike twice? Could love really find her again, the earth shattering kind that already consumed & almost destroyed her?

Rose is scared of how much Jack makes her feel, but also excited about life again. She knows she needs to exist beyond work. She wants to feel whole again & Jack makes her feel so much. He's sexy & so tender with her. This man is stunningly beautiful inside & out. He is blonde hair, ocean blue eyes, chiseled face, tan muscular body, just absolute perfection to the eyes, but inside is what really gets to Rose & captures her heart. This man looks at her like she's his whole world. He has such a beautiful kind soul & wants to give it all to Rose. She just has to be willing to risk her fears, put her heart back out there, try again, & accept the life he's offering her.

-Jack was everything I'd been missing, temptation, lust, hunger, and comfort all wrapped up in the perfect package. I felt strangely safe with him.

-In Jack's arms I felt beautiful, needed, wanted, cherished.

- "You have nothing to be afraid of with me. I can only prove it to you if you let me."

So, this book was absolute perfection for me! Best book I've read by Kate Stewart & one of my top reads for 2016. I couldn't get enough of the swoony Jack Sawyer with his creole accent & southern charm. This man is smoking hot! HOT! HOT! HOT! Omg, I was dying! So damn delicious!!!! I also loved getting more Dean & Dallas & ADORED baby Grant! He melted my heart! This book was so beautifully written & is a story that touches the heart and stays with you.

-All that there was to feel I felt for him, and with him. He'd become a need for me, a want and a hope.

- "I'll never regret giving you my heart. You are the only man in the world I want to have it."
