



Vivid

Jessica Wilde

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Merrick Thatcher went through a hell that no one could possibly imagine. He fought to protect his country, his family, and the men standing at his side, but it wasn't just being a soldier overseas that changed him. He watched his friends die in front of him, felt indescribable pain, and lost his sight in the very same moment.

Badly injured, blind, and angry, he's done with war, but now he's fighting his own battle. So, he's waiting for it to end, spending his days and nights in a thick darkness no light can penetrate. Until Grace walks into his life and his broken eyes open to a woman that changes everything for him.

A story about two flawed souls finding love amidst the grief. A love that shines vividly, even in the dark, and discovering that sometimes being broken is how the light gets in.

For readers 18+ due to language, violence, and sexual situations.

Vivid Details

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Author : Jessica Wilde

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From Reader Review Vivid for online ebook

Mandy says

I absolutely LOVED this book! Grace and Merrick have both been through so much and are fantastic characters. I loved the build-up in this book! I was hooked from the first page and didn't want this book to end. There were moments that made me cry, a few laughs and lots of swooning. Grace and Merrick are dealing with different kinds of grief, they are each damaged in different ways but are able to find comfort in each other. I loved this book - it's a top pick of 2015 for me and has one of my favorite epilogues ever! Highly recommend!

Erika says

4 to 4.5 stars

Though some of this story was slow for me, it ended up so sweet, beautiful and soul-fulfilling, that I can honestly say, I could even see myself re-reading it.

The heroine, Grace, was amazingly sweet, patient, kind, and just overall beautiful.

The hero, Merrick, started out grumpy and angry, understandably so. But his true character emerged page by page, that being a noble, caring and brave man.

Around the halfway point in the book, I was worried that the love story wasn't going to work for me because I don't like "hot blind guy falls for plain girl" trope. And well, thankfully it really wasn't exactly that. First of all, Grace isn't plain. But still.... Merrick had never seen or noticed her growing up, preferring flashier, more outwardly attractive women. That worried me because I want the hero to think the heroine is beautiful, and that includes visually!! Anyway, let's just say, the way the story played out, it fulfilled me completely.

I SOOOOO appreciated that there was no OW drama. Merrick apparently had been a popular guy but didn't come off as a manwhore and Grace wasn't a virgin. So this book avoided my two biggest dislikes. :-D

POTENTIAL TRIGGER: (view spoiler)

Alex ? says

3.75 stars

Beautiful love story. Well written.

Touched my heart.

The only thing that bothered me - the hero was neighbors with the heroine, they went to school together, but he couldn't remember her at all, even her hair color. But they were neighbors and their parents were friends,

so how couldn't he remember anything. Was she so plain for him?

I believed in their love and HEA.

But above mentioned fact didn't sit well with me.

Paige says

Vivid was an emotional story about a soldier coming back from war with injuries that change his whole life. It's also about a nurse who's trying to find herself again. Throw in a bit of unique neighbors to lovers story and I was hooked.

Merrick never thought that he'd be moving back home having his parents take care of him again after he left for the military right after high school. But getting burned badly and suffering broken bones and losing his sight created a situation in which he has to depend on others again. And he isn't adjusting well. When his mother finally gives up trying to help him, she calls in a nurse who just happens to be his old next door neighbor, Grace.

Grace grew up half in love with Merrick but then life moved on and so did she. After suffering a devastating loss and being left to deal with it on her own, she moved back home with her parents until she could get back on her feet. When she gets there she finds Merrick back home but not the same self-assured boy she once knew. He may never have paid her any mind growing up, but when his mother hires her to help him, they are thrown together and find acceptance in the last place they ever expected.

Both Grace and Merrick had events in their lives that they needed to overcome. I loved watching their relationship blossom. Merrick was kind of jerk but in a way that I totally understood. It did take me a minute to warm up to Grace and her lack of self-confidence but as she learned to understand herself, I fell for her too. Once they opened up to each other, the tension sizzled. I loved the use of music and how it connected these two in such a beautifully unique way. I was quite sad when it was over because their love story played out so genuinely that I wanted to stay with them longer.

This was my first Jessica Wilde novel but it definitely won't be my last.

Ann Lou says

Merrick Thatcher came back from war a shell of his former self. Physically scarred and emotionally broken.

Grace Samuelson move back to her parents home after a loss. She's a nurse and completely desperate to keep busy. Merrick's Mom hired her to be his homecare nurse.

First, I thought the H was a d*ck for not noticing the h. He doesn't even know what she looks like. They were neighbors for f*cks sake and they even went to the same school. Their houses were built close together and the empty space between their rooms was only EIGHT FEET. I am really pissed at him with this. It makes me wonder if he would have given her any attention at all if he's not blind. Did he redeem himself in my eyes? Yes. But I am still holding a grudge. (sue me)

Their journey together in moving forward even with the weight of loss truly moved me. And reading them

fall in love along the way is like the icing on a cake. But it is Grace's strength and faith I really admire.

"I may be broken and damaged, but with you, I've never felt more complete."

"I am not worthy of you. Not yet. But I'm going to be. I'll do my best to fight the monsters we face and I'll stop being afraid of the dark. Because with you, there's always light."

Danielle says

I've never read a book by Jessica Wilde that I didn't love and *Vivid* was no exception. It sucked me in from the prologue and took me on such an emotional journey that I couldn't put it down until Merrick and Grace got the HEA they deserved.

Merrick and Grace both had their own personal demons that they had to work through. Merrick with his injuries, his new disability, and dealing with the aftermath of everything that he witnessed while he was overseas. And Grace is dealing with a loss of her own and her inability to realize her own self worth. To say they had a rough journey would be an understatement but they were able to help each other overcome their obstacles.

Merrick was a bit of a jerk in the beginning, which is totally understandable given everything he's been through, but I loved that Grace didn't let him walk all over her. She let him have his space when he needed it and pushed him in her own way and I think that helped forge their bond even more.

Now when I say this book took me on an emotional journey I'm talking ugly crying one minute and happy tears the next, not to mention the sappy smile I had on my face when Merrick and Grace would banter and flirt. Watching Merrick open up and become the guy that Grace remembered was probably the highlight of this one for me. Not to mention the heartbreakingly beautiful moments when Grace was there to help Merrick through his nightmares.

I have to admit that I was a little disappointed by how some things played out towards the end but that didn't stop me from absolutely loving this book. *Vivid* has easily become one of my favorite reads and I highly recommend it! I can't wait to see what Jessica Wilde comes up with next!

*ARC kindly provided in exchange for an honest review.

RJ says

3.5 stars.

Not perfect but an enjoyable read. Stupid climax though.

Tessamari ♥ Many Waters...♥ ~ Sweet Spot Book Blog says

Five Stars

Loved this. Emotionally packed and well written. Full review to come.

Whitney McGregor (A Literary Perusal) says

Vivid is my first Jessica Wilde book. I'm ashamed to say I hadn't heard of her before and then one of my most trusted book friends just raved about this book. So of course I dropped what I was reading and immediately got sucked into the world of Merrick and Grace.

It took about three paragraphs into the prologue to realize I was going to love this book. It's the best feeling to start reading something new and just click with the story. I won't rehash the synopsis but the basic storyline is Merrick, a wounded vet has moved back to his hometown with emotional and physical scars. Grace, the girl next door who had a crush on him all throughout childhood is now his homecare nurse. Merrick never noticed her before and now that he's blind, he can immediately see how beautiful she is. Oh... the irony!

And Grace is seriously beautiful. On the outside, she is described as being relatively attractive (something she grew into) but it's her heart that I loved. She's tough, sweet and so very kind. And though Merrick is kind of a jerk, the dual POV really helps the reader know the struggles he is having and it doesn't take long to fall in love with him as well.

The two have more in common than Merrick realizes and as he allows Grace into his world, she becomes his light. But with all of their problems, it will not be an easy road for either of them.

I found the character development to be my favorite thing about this story. Even the side characters are great and I'd love to read more about Micah and Mitch, Merrick's brothers. This book is a stand alone and has a little something for everyone. There are parts that made me chuckle, parts that made me tear up a bit (though I never flat out cried), sexy times, sweet times, and everything in between! I loved the message of hope, survival and celebrating inner beauty.

So a definite recommendation!

Kindling Micky says

4.5 stars

The perfect recipe:

10 oz grumpy, injured soldier

6 oz nurse

50 oz sexual tension

A whole load of issues - mix thoroughly and bake for 300 pages or so.

I think you can tell that I enjoyed this book and I lost myself within its pages for just over a day. I have to be honest and say it isn't totally original in terms of concept but there were unique differences that made it unpredictable. Both the characters of Merrick and Grace were well developed and had real depth. They warred, they sizzled, they shared and they were friends.

I was impressed by Jessica Wilde's writing. I hadn't heard of her prior to seeing a couple of friends read the book over Christmas but I am glad I did. Both the cover and the title fit the book so perfectly. There is talent between the pages of this book and I'm off to recommend it to some of my book friends.

Reviewed for Jo&IsaLoveBooks Blog.

Romance Readers Retreat says

Just let me say a few things before we get into the good parts.

This is a full length, stand alone.

Some of you may need tissues.

You will not want to put this book down. Make sure you don't have anywhere to be for 20 hours.

Merrick is mine. Back off!!

I hope my review does this book justice.

In this book we have Grace. She's just been through a traumatic experience. I'm glad it's one that as a mommy, I've never personally have to deal with. She's broken. She also is probably at one of the lowest points in her life.

Usually with characters like that, I roll my eyes and say, "get over it!!"

Nope. Not this time.

She was just written so well. She did her suffering on the inside. She was so strong and put others first on the outside. No pity parties here.

Then we have Merrick *sigh* If at any time ever the title 'Beautifully Broken' was ever for a specific person, it's Merrick.

He is a soldier, I could say was, but everyone knows that once you sign up, it's for life. You have your family and you have your brothers. He was injured badly during his last tour of duty, he came out alive, but he was also so dead inside. He just couldn't see the light at the end of the tunnel figuratively, and also literally. He just has so much emotion going on. Some good, and other times your heart will break for him.

Through a convenience that isn't a cheesy, roll your eyes type, Grace ends up Merrick's nurse. And things just take off. You have the sparks, the plot, the emotion. I couldn't put this book down once I started. They have such a beautiful story to tell and you just have to listen.

To anyone who's ever liked to read books that are so realistic, and deal with every day emotions... You MUST have this book.

I don't want to give anything away, because I want you to read and experience it for yourself. The editing is almost flawless, and the story flows from page one. This is my first book by Ms. Wilde and I can't wait to try more.

I'm going to make this review personal for a minute. My husband was in the Marines for 6 years and over in Iraq, and my son is going to the National Guard. For me reading this, I'm also saying and praying, please

don't let me as a mother go through what these characters had to endure.
And to anyone who is, prayers and God Bless You all!!

Lorraine Oliver says

Vivid is Jessica Wilde's 8th book and it is awesome!

Merrick Thatcher is a man who has seen the worst side of life and that is war, and watching his brothers in arms be killed right in front of him. He has lived through being blown out of a vehicle being set on fire his whole left side burned and his left hand needing many surgeries to be usable again. His left leg was broken in multiple places and had to be put back together with many surgeries and rods. On top of feeling indescribable pain, he loses his vision. Now he is back home blind in a wheelchair and staying in his old family home-alone! It is not that his family won't help him-his mother goes everyday to help and he waits for days to take a shower, he does not want his mom to help him in that way and other ways as well. His Mother is beside herself and decides the only thing to do is hire a nurse.

Grace Samuelson lives next door and has had her share of heart break, and did not talk to anyone for a year after she lost the only thing in the world she wanted. Her Mother, like Merrick's mother and their families all care about their children -it matters not how old they are, Grace's mom went, helped her pack up and brought her home and told her to get a job and start living again, she was too young to give up.

One night Grace is in her room and she hears yelling really loud, and her mother tells her Merrick is back and that he was hurt in the war and is in a wheelchair and blind, and mad at the world. Grace does not understand why her mom thinks Merrick is being unreasonable and then she hears how badly he really is treating his mom. It bothers her, so she lays down on her bed and starts singing to herself, for comfort, songs she even made up for someone else, and Merrick hears it and quits yelling. He realized this

"I wouldn't have believed it if I wasn't experiencing it for myself. Her voice took my pain away from my body until all I could do was listen. All I could hear was her voice. Not all the aching in my limbs or the hollow in my head. Just her"

He felt peace.

His mother hires a nurse for Merrick and he can't believe it is Grace the girl next door with the voice. He gets angry and tells them both to get out. His mom calmly showed Grace where everything was, and all info she needed.

After 3 days he wheels into the kitchen and Grace said to him, "Good morning Merrick you reek". He smiled to himself and she told him to get ready to shower that he would get no food if he did not shower. Score one for her! Grace continues to make changes in his life that really help him and he and Grace start talking and getting to know each other.

Slowly but surely Merrick is getting back the use of his hand and he gets to start using crutches, but the pain is still almost more than he can bear, his life is lived in a haze of pain only he can feel but do nothing about. Grace on the other hand is still sad but doing the best she can. One night after she finally gets back in touch with her friend since childhood and they are drinking, she comes home with Grace and Grace finally opens up to her crying so bad about what happened why she lost touch with everyone and her soul searing loss and the aftermath. Merrick is in his room which is only 8 feet away from grace's room and he hear's it. He may

not have been able to see Grace but he could feel her pain.

Merrick wishes he could see Grace as he grew up around her but never paid attention to her and now she is the most important part of his life! Just like he is so into her, she is into him as well. Suddenly he has to figure out how to be a better man for her to see him, not realizing she saw him a long time ago when they were young! His whole family sees it, Grace's family sees it, so when are they going to see it?

- 1 Will Grace and Merrick have a happily ever after?
- 2 Will Grace come to terms with her loss and be able to heal herself?
- 3 Will Merrick ever be able to see again?
- 4 Will Merrick finally get in touch with all his men that he saved and quit dwelling on the ones he could not?
- 5 When Merrick has bad dreams, will he finally share with Grace what life was like in Iraq instead of holding it inside making him sick?
- 6 Can Merrick and Grace both get back their self confidence?

This book was so well written I know you will enjoy it. There is a lot of emotional, physical, and sexual angst. The characters are all well developed, and there is a wonderful cast of supporting characters that just give the book even more depth. I love the dialog between the characters, but mostly I love the way the author develops them into people that though damaged inside, realize that they can be so much more if they just give themselves a chance. The plot is great, keeps moving at a good pace so the book is never dragging, and I love the way that even though the subject of loss is so bad for these characters, she finds a way for them to be not just broken but also happy and funny at times too with their thoughts and actions, that in between all the angst there is joy as well.

This is an awesome book that brings to light the way that so many of our troops come home; maimed, broken, sad, unable to cope and scarred inside where we may not see it as well as on the outside, and it breaks my heart. I know we all know great young men and women who go off to war as children really, to support their country-our country and come back broken. It brings to light the grueling lives they now have to face at home with PTSD, and some of them do not have families willing to sacrifice for them.

I gave this book 5***** VIVID stars, because it is an awesome book.

Take the time to look into Jessica's other 2 stand alone novels and her series:

- 1 Our Time a stand alone
- 2 Every One of Me a stand alone
- 3 Leverage First book of Brannock Series
- 4 Conned book two of Brannock Series
- 5 Missing Book 3 of Brannock Series
- 6 Protector Book 4 of Brannock Series
- 7 Ricochet (Rise and Fall Book 1)

Thank you Jessica Wilde for writing a book that made me feel when I read your books for the first time and continue to do so!

Shanny says

5stars

We are all broken, that's how the light gets in. – Ernest Hemingway

Loved this book, such an emotional and beautiful story. I felt so much for both Merrick and Grace. I just love these kind of story, it wasn't just a love story. Vivid was a story of healing, courage, forgiveness and redemption.

It portrayed two people's struggles to overcome traumatic events in their lives.

"We both have our issues, Grace. But we're stronger together than we ever were apart. And I want you, because I know, right here," I stated, lightly pounding the spot over my heart, "that you're the one for me."

Merrick Thatcher is back home from Iraq after suffering terrible injuries physically and mentally. He since became a very bitter and angry man.

Grace Samuelson has moved back to her parents again after suffering a traumatic loss. She is hired to be Merrick nurse to help him adjust to his new life.

Grace she was an amazing character, she was sweet and giving but also strong and tough when she needed to be.

"Being scarred by something so horrible isn't the same as being ruined. You can only ruin yourself, Merrick, and that kind of destruction doesn't leave any visible scars."

Together, they developed a truly beautiful love story.

I loved every page of it, and was sad to see it end!

Shay says

I just finished Vivid and I just loved it! This about a scarred and blinded veteran named Merrick. He is bitter, mad at the world and more so at himself. He feels like it was his fault that he couldn't protect his men. He's alive when others are not. He takes his anger and pain out on everyone. The only thing that can make him cope is the girl next door that sings to him. This blocks out all the pain to where he doesn't even want to think about it. But he does need help, so his mother hires a nurse to help take care of him since he will not let anyone else. He doesn't expect Grace, the neighbor to be his nurse. What a complete shock. Trust me, he tries to be his snarly self to her, but she has a stronger will than he could ever imagine. He cannot help but want to be near her. She is his light when he sees dark.

"But she terrified me. The way I felt when she was close had become a drug. One I couldn't imagine giving up".

Grace is such a sweetheart. Dont let her sweet disposition fool you. She is dealing with heartache to, of the worse kind. But she understands what Merrick is going through. She believes she can help this broken, scarred man.

"The man underneath all that tough skin, scarred skin - was still a human being. He wanted peace just like the rest of us. It was just a little harder to come by these days".

She falls for him though. It was accidental. It rushed through her before she knew it but she has some insecurities that she will have to get past. At the end of the day, they will need each other to overcome it all.

I really looked forward to reading this. I had hoped I would get picked because there were limited books that Jessica was giving out. I am so glad that I got picked. Even if I didnt, it is worth the price that she sets to read it. It was beautifully written. I felt like I was there with Merrick on the battlefield, with Grace when she was going through her turmoil. They just had so much depth and vulnerability to me that made them more relatable. I hurt when they hurt. I cried when they cried. I laughed when laughing was needed. I also loved the secondary characters, felt that they didnt overshadow Merrick and Grace's story and brought a sweetness that made it all more enjoyable. Would love to see Mitch and Micah (Merrick's brothers) get their own story. How awesome would that be if we got to see their happily ever after.

Grab it when you can, trust me, you will not want to put it down.

Reviewed by Shay from Mommys a Book Whore

Story 5

Sex 4

Overall 5

Sleepless Readmore says

Ignore **those** who say just *get over it*.

Healing is *a process*.

ARC provided in exchange for a honest review.

5 #ISeeYou STARS

Grace and Merrick .. ♥

I couldn't **stop thinking** about her
and I ~~didn't want~~ to.
She **brought me** piece without *even* trying.

*My whole life has changed
Since you came in, I knew back then
You were that special one ..??*

Talk about game changer! **WOW** .. I'm still at *a loss of words*. For the past **few months** I was in a **#ReadingFunk** and couldn't get out of it. It was hard *to pick up* a book and **FINISH** it. Then the ever so talented Jessica Wilde had **gifted me** with an **#ARC** and I knew that this would be the answer! I could **NOT** put it down. My eyes *were burning* with the amount of **tears I shed** and my heart was hurting for *Merrick*. What **AN** incredible story. I've read *novels* with the similar circumstances but **they don't** hold a candle to this one.

You're not **broken**.
A *little* scratched up, **maybe**.

Move over *Grace* cause I would **gladly** play nurse for *Merrick*. Whatta hunk! *Grace* has always **had a crush** on *Merrick* however he never noticed her. After high school she had moved away and he **had gone off** to the war. Now she's back *years later* as is *Merrick*. They both have had **a rough couple of years**. Circumstances have insured that *Grace* will help with *Merrick*'s recovery process (**LUCKY GRACE**). *Merrick* may be blind although his other senses **have only** heightened. One phrase that I kept *in mind* before reading was "**Love is blind and lovers cannot see**" .. and that was pretty accurate with this novel. This story was truly **beautiful** and just goes to show that not all of them are "perfect" in the conventional sense. I **HIGHLY** recommend this novel.

She **won**.
I didn't even see it coming.
Just *a few words* out of **her** mouth
and *I was basically* her bitch now.

But we're **stronger together** than we ever
were apart. And I **want** you, because I **know**,

right **here** that you're the **one** for me.

Vivid Jessica Wilde