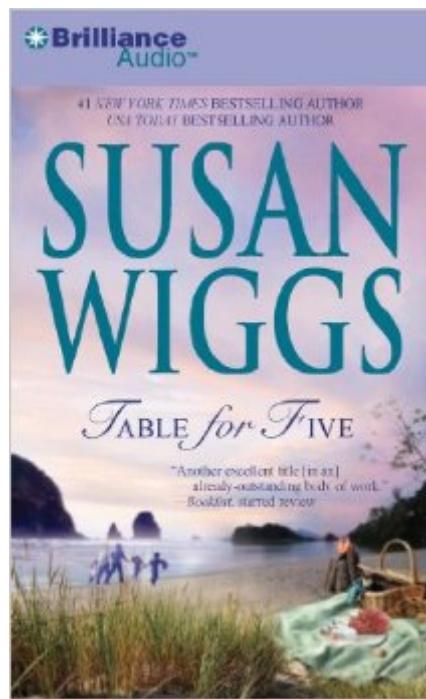


The book was found

Table For Five



Synopsis

Lily Robinson and Sean McGuire have nothing in common. She guards her independent lifestyle with a ferocity that hides a fear of love and the pain it can bring. He's always been a rolling stone, making his own way. But with the sudden deaths of a couple close to them both, the two become joined in grief and a knowledge that they must step up and care for the three orphaned children. With little more than hope and dedication, these five embark on a cross-country road trip filled with the ups and downs, the joys and frustrations that make up a family. Along the way, Lily and Sean and these troubled children will discover that even when you've lost everything, love still remains.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Teacher Lily Robinson is content with her life. Thirty, unwed and unburdened--that's the way she wants her life to be. Suddenly, her best friend meets a tragic end, leaving three orphaned children behind. Sean McGuire, the childrens' estranged uncle, has now become their guardian. A confirmed bachelor and chronic playboy, Sean is suddenly thrust into the life of a family man. The last thing he needs is a stuffy schoolmarm telling him how to manage things. Susan Wiggs' novel succeeds in everything it sets out to do. In the beginning, it depresses you. In the middle, it gives a realistic portrayal of children who have lost their parents. And in the end, it warms your heart. Everything wraps up in a perfect bow and leaves you feeling warm and fuzzy inside. I strongly recommend it. 4 1/2 stars.

The only reason why I picked this book up at my hairdresser's is because I wanted to see why readers love Susan Wiggs' books so much. Well, after finishing this book in five hours, I can see why. It's such a wonderful book it made me laugh and cry. It made me sigh and it was just wonderful. I couldn't put it down for one minute. This book focuses on Lily, a school teacher who is content with the way her life is. She is planning to go to Italy for the summer after school's out. Suddenly, her best friend and ex-husband is killed in a car accident, and she finds herself taking care of Crystal's three kids along with Crystal's former brother-in-law, Sean. Sean is a former pro golfer who was kicked out of golf for cheating. Now teaching other people how to golf and bartender at the local golf course, Sean all of a sudden finds himself guardian with three kids, Cameron, a teenager, Charlie, a third-grader and Ashley, the two-year-old. Both Lily and Sean's lives were disrupted by the tragedy and together, they pull the kids through the darkest moments of grief. It is a wonderful humane story about loss and love, friendship, dreams and hopes. It is a story that takes you to another world where things are still possible ~~ and yes, it is very predictable, but Wiggs make the trip fun anyways. This is a perfect reading for those times when you have a few hours to yourself ~~ and want to relax. She's a good storyteller and one that I plan to keep an eye out for. 9-3-06

one of susans best works! its the kind of story you can't put down but don't want it to end either. the cast of characters are funny and poignant. sean and lily's idea of raising these kids are opposite and present some funny scenes. would love to hear this book on audio just to hear some of the dialogue. a must read for anyone who love complex families and how they blend together.

One of my favorite authors has done it again. Lily Robinson is a private school 2nd grade teacher. Her best friend's daughter, Charlie, is in her class, but she's failing reading and has been caught stealing. Sean McGuire is Derek's younger brother who's come home from living in Asia after he loses his pro golf career there. The last time Lily and Sean have seen each other is at Derek and Lily's wedding. However, after Derek and Crystal are killed in a car accident after meeting with Lily about Charlie's school problems, Sean becomes the children's guardian as specified in Derek's will even though Crystal had asked Lily to do so, but never got around to putting it in writing. But she can't desert the children. She remembers Cameron as a sweet child even though he's now an angry 15 year old. And who can possibly ignore the baby, Ashley, not yet two years old. But Lily isn't sure Sean is over his playboy ways and he is convinced she's way too uptight. Setting aside their personal impressions of the other, they begin to work together to help the children heal. In the

process, each of them begins to understand themselves a bit better, too. Although money is going to be an issue soon, Sean turns down an opportunity to play pro golf for a million dollar purse. He refuses to leave the kids or allow them to become pawns of the sponsor who decides to back him. When Cameron begs Lily to get Sean to change his mind, she makes the ultimate sacrifice--giving up her plan to spend the summer in Italy. And what happens on that summer-long trip from one golf course to the next serves the children well until they return home to face the secret Cameron and Charlie know that Sean and Lily don't. When they find out, how they deal with it could destroy the fragile new family they've created out of love for the people who died. An affecting story that pulls in the reader and refuses to let go until the last page.

Schoolteacher Lily Robinson keeps her heart. Every year, she lets wonderful children into it, and every year, she graduates them out. She won't risk real love, real children of her own--because she can never recover from losing her younger brother. But when her best friend dies, leaving three children, Lily knows that her worst fears have been realized. She can't help loving these children--but their uncle, not Lily, is responsible for their upbringing. Sean McGuire is a disgraced golfer. Falsely accused of cheating by the Japanese Mafia, Sean has been drummed from the sport he loves. With his brother's death, Sean has plenty to keep him busy--three children are a lot of work--but he knows he needs more. The kids were troubled even before their parents' death, and they're worse now. And giving up his own life for them doesn't seem to offer much help. After a painfully slow and introspective introduction, author Susan Wiggs picks up the pace with a moving and heartwarming romance. Sean, in particular, is a likable character--he loves children, is drop-dead good looking, golfs like a dream, and always knows just what to say or do. The troubled children, traumatized by their parents' death and by another secret, are realistically drawn--neither too perfect nor horrid but realistically troubled children. Death of a friend, a brother, and three children's parents is definitely a downer. But Wiggs's heartwarming storytelling and strong writing allows us to see hope and promise for the future coming from this tragic beginning.

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