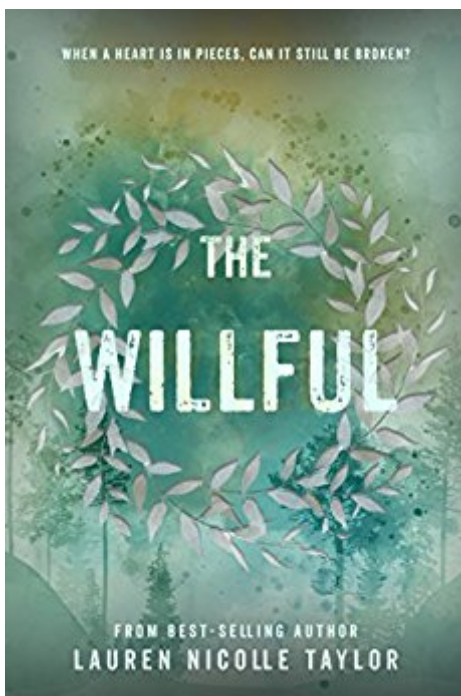


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The Willful: Novella (The Woodlands Series)



Synopsis

When a heart is in pieces, can it still be broken? Quiet, contemplative Esther is in love. It's an all-encompassing love that sweeps her off her feet but also leaves her dangling with nothing to hold onto. It's thrilling, unlike anything she's ever felt before, and she gives her whole heart to this marriage, to this willful, passionate man. Things change when she becomes a mother. It's not just the two of them anymore, and as Esther gives a large piece of her heart to her daughter, Rosa, she starts to realize that maybe love shouldn't be this hard. That she shouldn't have to give up her whole self to be with him. That now that she's a mother, she can't. Set in the years leading up to *The Woodlands*, *The Willful* follows Esther, Rosa's mother, as she navigates young motherhood, a marriage on the brink, and the hard decisions that come with living in a controlled world with an uncontrollable man. Do you dare enter the Woodlands? A dystopian page-turner with over 750 five-star ratings on Goodreads. The Woodlands Series is perfect for fans of *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins, *The Divergent Series* by Veronica Roth, and *The Jewel Series* by Amy Ewing. *The Woodlands* is an Award-Winning Finalist in the "Fiction: Young Adult" category of the 2014 USA Best Book Awards, as well as a Semifinalist in The Kindle Book Awards by the Kindle Book Review.

Book Information

File Size: 4698 KB

Print Length: 69 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Clean Teen Publishing; 1 edition (October 15, 2014)

Publication Date: October 15, 2014

Sold by: Â Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00OKRQUB2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #218,269 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #19

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Customer Reviews

This is from Rosa's mom Esther's POV. It's a short story and gives a glimpse into her mind and life. I liked to know her. Seeing Rosa and Pelo from her eyes and getting to know her, why she behaved the way she did and why she made Pelo to leave. After reading *The Woodlands*, I have been curious, what had happened. I thought she didn't cared that much for Rosa but damn, I am so dead wrong and feel like an idiot. I finished reading in an hour and way too early, lol didn't knew it was a short story. And am glad I read it before *The Wanted* as I didn't knew the future or there would have been to much water work. And hope there will be more spin offs, to know what happens in all their future.

This is a good explanation of the steps leading up to Pelo's departure from the family. As well as Paulo's entry.

I have loved the *Woodlands* series so far and this was no exception. I really did not like Rosa's mother Esther at all, I thought she was a selfish and hateful woman who defended her husband over her daughter. This book makes you look at it from a different view point, even though I still don't like how weak she is about speaking up for herself and when she does she turns away the man she loves and her daughter's father. I know she had her reasons but I still don't like it. I guess it is the reason Rosa is as strong as she is though.

Though Taylor is a phenomenal writer and this book is just as great as any other book in the *Woodlands* series, I just hate this book because I simply hate Esther's character so much. However, despite my personal hate towards this character, this novella was beautifully written, and did explain why Esther made the choices she did, though I still cannot relate to her.

The Willful is a stunning, heart-wrenching addition to *The Woodlands* series. It takes you on a journey with Esther and Pelo, from before Rosa was born to when Paulo is introduced. Lauren Nicolle Taylor's ability to capture these moments with clarity is both impressive and

intoxicating. She sweeps you easily into the story, always leaving you wanting more. The Willful is definitely a must-read!

I enjoyed getting background and insight on Rosa's mother, father, and how her mom ended up with Paulo. Honestly, I was sad that I was finished reading the series. It was so good, and I didn't want it to end.

Nice novella. Goes well with the series but also a nice short story for anyone looking for encouragement in a situation they feel stuck in.

Taylor's amazing character work blows me away, again. She populates the 'Woodlands' world with people who are totally unique, yet we can all recognise and relate to. Special, moving, and intimate. Thank you.

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