



Just the Way You Are (Lost Texas Hearts, Book 1)

By Christina Dodd

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Just the Way You Are (Lost Texas Hearts, Book 1) By Christina Dodd

New York Times bestselling author Christina Dodd, one of the most acclaimed authors of historical romance, makes a dazzling foray into contemporary fiction in this intriguing and sensuous novel about a hard-working young woman who mistakenly falls in love with Boston's wealthiest bachelor.

JUST THE WAY YOU ARE

When Hope Prescott's parents disappeared, her carefree teenage life vanished forever. She and her three siblings were separated and sent to different foster homes around the country. Now, seven years later, Hope is still searching for them. To support herself, she works for an answering service, and cares for her clients as if they were family. When wealthy businessman Zachariah Givens hires Hope's service, Hope initially mistakes Zack for his butler. Tired of being coddled and pattered because of his money, Zack is charmed by Hope's candor, not to mention her sexy voice, and keeps up the charade. As their friendship turns into passion, Zack is determined to have her, even if that means the unthinkable - marriage. But when Hope discovers his deception, Zack knows he must solve the mystery that haunts Hope's past in order to convince her that their futures lie together....

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Shining with all the humor of her historical romances-but with a sassy edge that reflects the story's modern setting-Dodd's (*My Favorite Bride*, etc.) first foray into the contemporary arena is nothing short of a success. Separated from her siblings since her parents' death seven years earlier, Hope Prescott works as an answering service operator and dreams of getting a job that will finance her search for her family-not to mention socks without holes. While calling in for his messages, Zack Givens, a Boston CEO notorious for his cold manner, accidentally leads Hope to believe that he's his butler, and her scorn for the rich and heartless as well as her warm, caring manner encourages him to continue the charade. Upon meeting Hope in person and realizing that she has a heart of gold, Zack's focus turns possessive and sexual, and his stratagems revolve around getting her in bed and then showering her with wealth. But secrets from Hope's past and Zack's distrust conspire to ruin their happiness. Zack's poor estimation of Hope's moral strength may disturb some readers, but his bewilderment and agony when he realizes his mistake will soften hearts. Aside from one farcical side trip-when Hope is kidnapped by a crime lord-Dodd's surefooted story is lively, sexy and certain to expand her readership.

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From [Booklist](#)

When Hope Prescott was 16, tragedy destroyed her family and sent her across the country to Boston. Seven years later, as a student and answering-service operator, she saves every penny to search for her sisters and brother. Takeover king Zach Givens, an aristocratic, technophobic snob, meets Hope through the answering service. Positive that the nice man on the phone is Givens' butler, Hope allows a telephone friendship to escalate to a hot encounter. When she is wrongly arrested for embezzling money from a local gangster, Zach sees her with one of his enemies and decides that she was just after his money; at the same time she discovers that he has been lying to her about his identity. By the time he comes to his senses, she has been kidnapped, so Zach and all the friends Hope has made answering phones band together to conduct a zany rescue. The warm characterizations and caperlike plot make Dodd's hot contemporary romance a delight, and the cliff-hanger ending will leave readers eager for the sequel. *Diana Tixier Herald*

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Review

"Christina Dodd's novels are bawdy, brainy, and ultimately beguiling...thoroughly delightful."

"A master romantic storyteller." -- Kristin Hannah

"A delight." -- "Booklist"

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Todd Jacob:

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