



The Secret Ingredient

Jane Heller , Rachael F. Heller

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What If A Secret Potion...

Meet Elizabeth Baskin, who falls in love, gets married, and discovers six years into her union that the magic is gone-or, rather, fading. Her husband Roger has grown a paunch, lost interest in sex, and seems allergic to conversation. What's a disgruntled wife to do?

Could Turn The Dullest Dud...

After taking her sister's advice, and consulting with a celebrity doctor, whose practice is a bit unconventional, Elizabeth is convinced that she's found the secret ingredient to saving her marriage. All she has to do is slip the prescribed packet of miracle herbs into Roger's orange juice and then-presto! She'll have him back the way he was before he started coming home from work and falling asleep in front of the TV!

Into A Stimulating Stud?

But her plan goes dramatically awry, and instead of rekindling her romance with Roger, she finds herself stuck with a man she hardly recognizes and doesn't even like. Suddenly, Elizabeth is breaking into the doctor's office, running from the law, and teaming up with a transplanted southern belle-all in a desperate attempt to restore Roger to his old, imperfect self. What she learns is that perfection, especially when it comes to husbands, is highly overrated. The question is: does her revelation come too late?

The Secret Ingredient Details

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From Reader Review The Secret Ingredient for online ebook

Tina says

Its ok so far I guess. Nothing incredibly special.

If you are in a relationship or have ever been in one where your bf / husband has gotten too comfortable then you will read the first few chapters nodding your head and relating to everything being said. after that it starts getting a little ridiculous and not so believable.

Overall the book was ok. Its definitely not the best thing I have ever read. Its alright for a one time read. This won't be a book that I seek out to read again.

Donna says

This book grabbed my attention and never let go. I couldn't put the book down until I finished it. Every married woman has thought that the "magic" has gone out of their marriage at some time or other. I doubt many of us have gone to the extremes that these women do. Of course, that is what makes this book so delightful. I will definitely be looking for more books by this author.

Katherine Nally says

A very quick read, but I almost gave up in the middle because it got so crazy.

It's ultimately about how nobody's perfect, us included, and how we collectively need to learn to live with that. I appreciate the message but I would've liked the book better if the characters weren't so extreme.

Merihellene says

Roger is perfect, Roger is a dud, Roger is enhanced, Roger is un-enhanced, Roger is the perfect dud. During this wild, insightful and witty ride, Elizabeth rates hotels, introduces us to her star struck sister, finds a "Dr/Magician," partners (in crime) with another unhappy wife, meets a mysterious and lecherous private detective, breaks and enters, goes to jail, makes friends with a con-woman, makes a psychotic enemy, deals with various sex pots and bimbos, stalks celebrities, has a run in with thugs, gets kidnapped and left to die, gets rescued by her favorite dud and realizes no one is perfect, nor marriage not even herself. This book kept me guessing, thinking and laughing all the way through

Anne-Marie says

This is the best book to read if you need humor and an escape. The woman wants to change her husband and then when that happens she no longer likes him and a reversal is put into place with hilarious antics. This

was the first one I read by Jane Heller, I think it is one of the best. Heller is a master at the ironice twist. YOU can read this over and over and still love it.

Yang Shu-yuan says

Elizabeth Baskin hat den Mann ihrer Träume geheiratet - nur leider ist Roger nach sechs Jahren Ehe zum gestressten, abgeschlafften Geschäftsmann mutiert. Was tun? Mit Hilfe eines Pülverchens, das ihr ein Wunderheiler verschrieben hat, gelingt Elizabeth die Rückverwandlung, und sie hat ihren Supermann wieder. Allerdings kann sie diesem Energiebündel plötzlich nicht mehr das Wasser reichen

Jody says

The author has a wonderful sense of humor and a great style in her writing. However, the premise of the story was pretty far-fetched. She is dissatisfied with the way her marriage is going and goes to a Hollywood "doctor" for special herbs to fix it. It backfires with hilarious results. This is a great book to read if you're looking for something quick, easy to read and need a good laugh.

Ashley says

A great summer read. Fun, but a bit of a reminder that we can be unforgiving and judgemental towards the people close to us. She makes you laugh at the ideas you get in your head about changing others to better fit into what YOU want and forget what it is that they may want out of life, particularly your relationships. It is not too serious, while touching on a serious topic...living, breathing, working, sleeping, playing, loving, and fighting with the same person each day (usually in a small space the size of a living room, lol).

Sheri says

I got this book as a raffle prize. I'd never read this author and I wouldn't have bought it. The blurb tweaked my interest though, and I opened it to page 3. It grabbed my interest right away. The basic premise is unbelievable and in order for the story to work you just have to accept it. From then on, it's a fun ride supporting the axiom, "be careful what you wish for."

Elizabeth wants to spice up her husband and unbeknownst to him, treats him with an herb potion. For a few days she's pleased with the results, but then he morphs into someone so perfect that he becomes a different man. There are a lot of laughs throughout the book. I ended up reading the whole thing in one sitting. Not my normal type of book, but seems like a B.

Maria says

I really enjoyed this book. It had an original take on the common chic lit. It says that it uses magic, but really just some medical herbs, so I don't be frightened by the work "magic". Through out the whole book I

couldn't come up with how the book was going to be resolved. Therefore, I was surprised in the ending. The only part I did not like was how critical she was of her husband. I'm surprised he didn't leave her long ago! She was expecting perfection from her spouse in every aspect. But she does learn a lesson in the end!

Alice says

Jane Heller sure knows how to write a funny novel with twists and turns, good story line, no one is perfect the myself included.

Kris says

Heller's latest romantic satire (after *Female Intelligence*) playfully follows the misadventures of Elizabeth Baskin, a dissatisfied wife searching for a magic potion to revitalize her husband, Roger, only to discover that quick fixes can be disastrous. She's a finicky hotel field inspector spy for AMLP, America's Most Luxurious Properties, who's almost ready to downgrade her own marriage as uninhabitable. Roger, an overworked real estate lawyer, has developed a paunch, a bald spot and a penchant for going to bed at 11 instead of making love till dawn. He drools and drops crumbs everywhere when he eats, and she yearns for the old romance of their first meeting when he rescued her from a breakdown on the "dreaded 405," a Southern California freeway. Brenda, who's Elizabeth's well-meaning sister and a celebrity-obsessed journalist, suggests Dr. Gordon Farkus, a Beverly Hills "specialist in life enhancement." Elizabeth buys into the trendy hocus-pocus and purchases a "stud stimulant" to drop into her hubby's fresh-squeezed orange juice, but in her eagerness to rev up Rog, she overdoses him and suddenly her sweet but dull husband becomes a sexy but terribly self-absorbed hunk no woman can resist. Mortified by the havoc she's wrought, Elizabeth decides to ask for the antidote, only to discover the notorious "life enhancer" has split town.

Cute story.

Robin says

After six years, Elizabeth Baskin's marriage has lost it's magic. Her husband, Roger, is just not interested in her anymore. So, she consults a celebrity doctor who prescribes a packet of herbs to be mixed in Roger's orange juice. But instead of rekindling her romance with Roger, she finds herself stuck with a man she hardly recognizes and doesn't even like. Suddenly, Elizabeth is breaking into the doctor's office and running from the law, all in an attempt to restore Roger into his old imperfect self.

This was a fun book with the usual Jane Heller humor. My rating: 4 Stars.

Natalie says

This was a good book for me to read. The woman is a perfectionist and after 11 years of marriage is tired of her husband who is not perfect. She sneaks a potion into his orange juice and he becomes the perfect man...and she hates it and learns through the painful process that her husband is fine the way he is and that she is happier with a human being than with perfection. Funny with a good reminder to be more tolerant.

Amber says

This was a fun and cute plot; got a few good laughs out of it and she had slight depth and charm with it. However, the plot is a little "out there" so it's not her finest. I'm glad I continued to read her however because some of her other titles have been very enjoyable. I like her conversational tone of writing.

Others I like: Whitney Gaskell, Beth Kendrick, Alesia Holliday, Janet Evanovich & Emily Giffin
