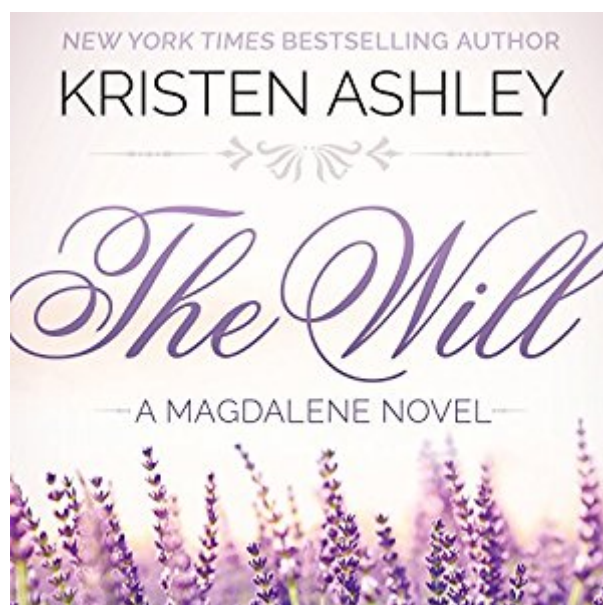


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The Will



Synopsis

Early in her life, Josephine Malone learned the hard way that there was only one person she could love and trust: her grandmother, Lydia Malone. Out of necessity, unconsciously and very successfully, Josephine donned a disguise to keep all others at bay. She led a globetrotting lifestyle on the fringes of the fashion and music elite, but she kept herself distant. While Josephine was trotting the globe, retired boxer Jake Spear was living in the same small town as Lydia. There was nothing disguised about Jake. Including the fact he made a habit of making very bad decisions about who to give his love. But for Josephine and Jake, there was one person who adored them. One person who knew how to lead them to happiness. And one person who was intent on doing it. Even if she had to do it as her final wish on this earth.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

With a pure alpha hero and a quirky, sweet and totally lost heroine, *The Will* is full of true, vintage Kristen Ashley goodness. The first time I read this I pulled an all-nighter. This time, I once again read it straight through, growling out loud if anyone dared to interrupt. I had completely forgotten how good it was. Jake is a strip club owner who also owns a boxing gym. He's almost the perfect mix of Max from *The Gamble* and Tack from *Motorcycle Man*, hot, growly, foul-mouthed, sexy, sweet, and knows when to go gentle and but also knows when to let it all hang out. His one downfall is that in the past he's had crap taste in women. He has three amazing kids that he (and I) adore, a boxing gym he runs, and a strip club that pays the

bills. Josie, like many KA heroines, is more than a bit quirky and also completely lost. She had horrid parents and went through unbelievable trauma before fate finally smiled on her and she landed at Lavender House with her Grandmother Lydie. Unfortunately lots of damage had already been done. Josie left as soon as she could and seemed to have it all with her jet setting lifestyle as a PA to a renowned fashion photographer. In a true Hail Mary move, Lydie, not being a woman who would let death cheat her out of her greatest dream, gave Josie to Jake in her will. What comes after results in one of KA's most beautiful stories ever. It is also one of the hottest stories of all of Kristen Ashley's. The locker room scene alone is worthy of several rereads on its own. Yeah, I'm getting steamed just thinking about it. There were some memorable side characters, especially Jake's children and Alyssa, a fellow boxer's wife who was a diamond in the rough. The two Taylors added just a touch of fun of their own but the most important side character of all was Lydie even though she was dead. At times I missed the playfulness that a Tex or a Daisy gives a KA story but then I got caught up in the pure simplicity of the story. I decided a cute funny sidekick would have detracted from the sheer raw beauty I found. I don't give 5 stars often, but this book deserves it and then some.

2.75 Stars (though the epilogue, as usual, could add the .25 stars to make this a 3). I'll start by saying that it's the trademark family-oriented approach of The Will that kept me reading. Kristen Ashley never, ever, fails to give her readers a family that they fall in love with. Connor, Amber, and Ethan were the absolute highlight of this story, keeping me turning the pages long after I wanted to stop. Jake is a great father and one that I could easily relate to as a parent. I loved these people and was invested in their development, even though they resembled pretty much every other family that KA has written about. It didn't matter because I love them every single time! The love story in The Will is predicated on the rocky notion that Jake fell in love with the perfect but damaged Josie years before they met based on stories and pictures provided by her beloved (and also seemingly perfect) grandmother whose funeral opens the book. Josie is a fairly typical KA heroine with an extra side of weirdness and a perfection tiara that surpasses every other KA heroine I've ever read about. Josie doesn't like kids, but somehow says all the right things to Jake's kids, making their lives better. Josie has walls around her due to earlier trauma but every male that meets her is in love with her and she's just too innocent to notice. Josie talks as if she either fell out of a Jane Austen novel or came from an alien planet and people love it. Jake, though sexy as all get out, is almost as perfect, except he has a temper. Thank God. I did find the setting absolutely beautiful and the secondary characters

were hilarious, especially the Taylors. Sadly, I didn't find myself intrigued enough to want to read the next book, which has pretty much never happened with a KA series.

I'm a fan of KA. But I'm more a fan of certain series she's done. I loved the Colorado Mountain and Dream Man and even Rock Chicks. Her other series are ok, but mostly I end up skimming the lengthy internal monologue. Sometimes I just wish she would write a 300 page book filled with excitement and intensity, rather than the nearly 600 pages of mundane details. Alas(as was said nearly 40,000) times in this book, such is not the case.I didn't really like Josie. I mean, she was ok, but I couldn't connect with her. I'm all for being yourself but I thought her "mask" was supposed to come off yet she still talk like an English professor with a pipe and cane. Sorry, but that's what I pictured. I think the age also hurt this story for me. I prefer younger characters, not to say i don't enjoy older characters, but with older characters you miss a lot of elements that make a story great to me. Like pregnancies and babies and craziness.Anyway, I still liked the book. I think Jake made up for a lot of issues I had with Josie. I wouldn't recommend it to someone who hasn't read her books before, but to followers of KA, it's worth the read. Just be prepared to be a tad bored.

This book took forever to read. There's so much not to like about this book but my biggest complaint would be the made up drama at 70% and 90% that just extended the story past bearable. This should have been told in under 250 pages. Jake's names for Josie- baby, babe, honey- are just demeaning when you're using pet names with someone you don't know at all. I liked how blending a family with a relationship went but not enough to recommend this book. I like Mickey as a character but not enough to trudge through book two if it's as mind numbing as this was. Not sure why all the 4 or 5 star reviews, the pacing is a deal breaker.

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