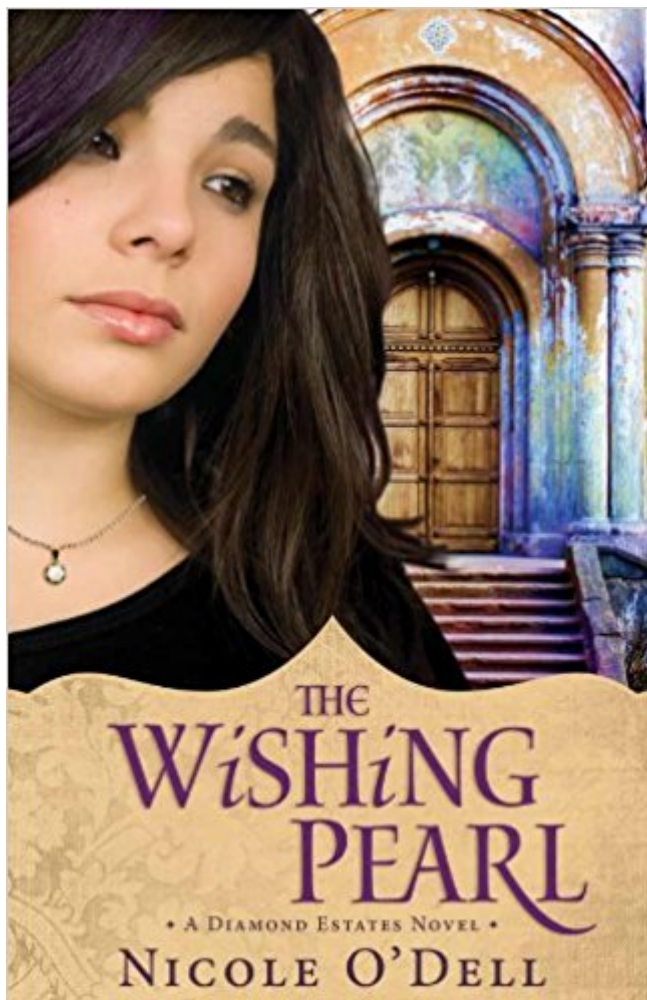


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# The Wishing Pearl (Diamond Estates)



## Synopsis

Join conflicted sixteen-year-old Olivia Mansfield on her journey to hope and healing as she leaves her messed-up life behind and moves into Diamond Estates, a home for troubled teens. This brand-new novel for teen girls will not only entertain, but also promises to capture your heart and challenge your faith.

## Book Information

Series: Diamond Estates (Book 1)

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 37 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,005,379 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #60 in Books > Teens >

Literature & Fiction > Religious > Christian > Social Issues

## Customer Reviews

O'Dell's heart for young adults shines through. A story of hope in the midst of pain, poignantly-written with vivid characters facing real-life issues, *THE WISHING PEARL* is a can't-put-down must-read for teens! --Tosca Lee, author of *Demon: A Memoir* O'Dell has penned a gripping novel that will have you turning the pages. "The Wishing Pearl" is a powerful story of a girl stepping from a shattered life into the light of hope. --Jenny B. Jones, award-winning author of *A Charmed Life* series The writing of this novel is amazing and I felt as though I could connect with Olivia and what she was going through. She has so much life and energy, but was pouring it into all the wrong places. "If you enjoy books that discuss tough, but real topics...I seriously suggest picking up this amazing novel!" LillyReader, Lilly Roadl was so totally lost in this story that I just couldn't stop reading! "The characters were so well developed, the story so well written, the ups and downs and twists and turns were phenomenal." The writing was so descriptive that I could picture clearly in my mind's eye, Diamond Estate perfectly. "I was so engrossed in each of the girl's stories and friendships that I felt like I was living on a cot in the room the four girls shared together. I felt that close to them." Although this was originally written as a young adult novel, it is

also great reading for any age. At 368 pages it only took me a few hours to buzz through it because it was that good!! Be sure to pick up a copy as this is one story you won't forget. (Louise Jolly Book Bag Lady 2011-08-02) Where the novel shines is in its portrayal of thoughts and feelings that seem like they are coming from a real teen. Nicole O'Dell does an exceptional job giving voice to all the feelings of doubt, shame, inadequacy, fear, etc., that a teen -- especially a girl -- can feel. For teens who are faced with tough situations that give rise to hard questions, fear, and discouragement, the novel provides guidance and hope. At one point, Olivia is encouraged to "fight the lies". The explanation that follows this advice, touching on what those lies are, is a terrific lesson that people of all ages can benefit from. Curious? Read the book! I really enjoyed The Wishing Pearl and would highly recommend it! I look forward to reading the next installment, The Embittered Ruby, when it comes out next April. (Dawn Creal Read Love 2011-12-06) The Wishing Pearl portrays real issues teens find themselves facing today, such as substance abuse, eating disorders, and abortion. It manages a realistic approach without graphic scenes or objectionable language. The characters include mostly teen girls with realistic attitudes, taking steps toward healing. It's a good choice for your library, especially for the girls who attend youth group. (LVO Church Libraries 2012-03-19)

Sixteen-year-old Olivia Mansfield can't wait to escape the confines of her home, which promises nothing but perpetual torment and abuse from her stepfather. When poor choices lead her to the brink of a complete breakdown, Olivia comes to a crossroads. Will she find the path to ultimate hope and healing that her heart longs for?

I liked this book fairly well. The way it portrayed the abuse was exactly how I can handle it -- implied but off-screen and vaguely. I also thought it did a fantastic job showing how a series of choices can lead you deeper and deeper until you look back and wonder, "How did I end up here?" The first half felt long to me because I was looking forward to Olivia getting to Diamond Estates (and for the mild romance to start). I loved Diamond Estates -- it's the kind of place I wish my husband could find to work at. It was so similar to the facilities he has worked at but with the added benefit of being Christian. (Though I know enough about his job to find a few Diamond Estates policies less than credible.) I did think the end dragged a bit -- once everything was all out in the open the book started to feel like a very long wrap-up. And I got a little frustrated at Olivia wanting to sneak a smoke all the time. It didn't help that my ebook didn't have any spacing/line indicators for scene cuts. So there'd be time-jumps

between paragraphs and it would take me a minute to figure out time had passed and I was always confused. Date stamps would have helped a lot. (This is probably why it bothered me when someone's boyfriend signed "I love you" at the end " so far as I was concerned, it felt like they'd only been dating a week!) My one main beef with the book was that the ending was too neat & easy. For a book focused on real problems with troubled youth, it was unrealistic for resolution to be so tidy.

I pre-read this to see if it would be suitable for my 12 year old daughter (verdict: not quite yet, maybe in a couple of years). This book is really quite good. I'm not a weepy person, but one scene had me crying actual tears (her memory of the father's funeral... oh.my.gosh. so sad. As a mom it just slayed me.) Although the book deals with a lot of intense, difficult subjects it never goes into graphic detail. The focus is on the emotional impact of decisions and the consequences of sin (both the protagonist's sin and the grievous sins of others). I look forward to having my daughter read it in a year or two, when she's ready. I hope she enjoys it as much as I did. Great job, Nicole O'Dell. :)

I'm not usually a fan of "Jesus is your savior" fiction, but I enjoyed this book. The story follows the life of one messed up teenager and her efforts to find the right path. If you're looking for something that's touching and inspiring, this might be your book.

The first time I read this book, I didn't like it. It deals with some harsh serious topics. I can't say what made me decide to reread it, but I'm so glad I did. It's become a book I really like-- if you like books about teenagers dealing with tough things but getting through them with hope and God I recommend this book.

I've read over 100 books in the last 4 years on the kindle app and this is the first one that really touched me in a different way. I have a feeling I'll be thinking about this book for awhile.

Nicole O'Dell knows teenagers, and knows the Lord. This is more than evident in this powerful series targeted for teens. I somehow read the second in the series first, and went back to this one and still really enjoyed it. It's a fabulous read with realistic situations, and 3-dimensional characters that are so lifelike, I found myself wanting to pray for them along the way! lol I highly recommend this novel and the entire series for the teen girl in your life. Whether your teen is struggling or doing well, this is a must read.

Despite everything that Olivia been through, she managed to put her faith in God. Beautiful story. Can't wait to read the sequel!!!

I found this book hard to put down, and I am not the target audience (teenage girls). I picked it up on a whim because the premise sounded interesting and was not disappointed. I am not being compensated in any way for this review. (spoiler alert) I have read Christian fiction in the past, and some of it I find annoying because it can get very preachy and predictable. In many ways *The Wishing Pearl* follows the same old pattern: person to whom terrible things happened over which they had no control is angry with God, doubts his existence, or both; with the help of people firm in their faith they come to see God has been working in their lives all along and intends only good for them. What made *Wishing Pearl* stand out was one main thing: its protagonist, Olivia, a teenage girl who has been handed some very hard knocks. Although it appears she has everything materially a girl could ask for, she is desperately unhappy: her father died when she was young, her stepfather sexually abuses her, and her self-obsessed mother is completely oblivious. Olivia's only solaces are her deaf older brother, whom she adores but who is going away to college, and playing the oboe. She hopes to earn a music scholarship in the future, but college is still two years away. Feeling trapped, Olivia turns to drinking and drugs to escape from reality. Eventually, realizing she desperately needs a change after a drunk driving accident, she goes to a spiritually-based treatment facility for girls called Diamond Estates. Olivia is a fully realized and complex teenage girl character, and reacts to situations in a believable way. She really made me understand how someone kind, talented and smart could get themselves into this kind of situation. Her slow change from rebellion to learning to trust God was believable--no light switch spontaneously lit, she still had to struggle even after she tentatively began to trust in God's good will. So back to my main complaints about Christian fiction and how this book measures up. Is it preachy? At times, but it doesn't feel like the Christian characters are constantly trying to break the fourth wall to ram lessons down the readers' throats. It feels like a journey of watching Olivia and her friends at Diamond Estates trying to rise above the (sometimes horrendous) cards they were dealt, and the bad choices they made, with the help of their growing faith. Is the book predictable? Again, at times, though it tries to break away from the cliches of its genre. Given how complex and developed the characters are, and how true-to-life everything about this book feels, I was hoping for a little more bittersweet ending. Overall, however, O'Dell tells a good story with a lot of heart. In conclusion, definitely worth a read, and I'm glad I picked it up. I plan to read the second book in the series (*The Embittered Ruby*) when it

comes out.

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