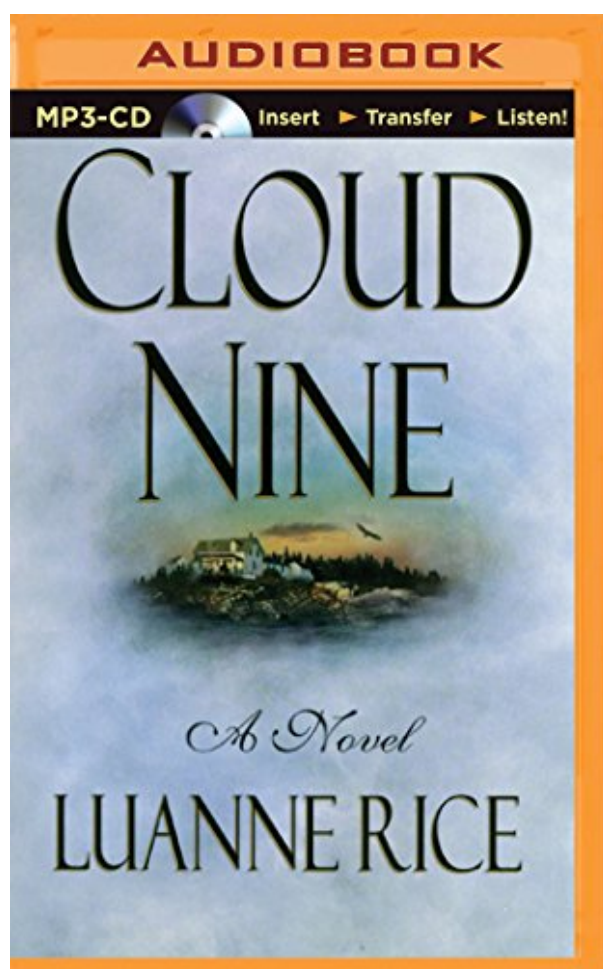


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CLOUD NINE



A Novel

LUANNE RICE

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Amazon.com Review

Thirty-seven-year-old Sarah Talbot's lengthy battle with cancer forced her to put life on hold. But a clean bill of health has given her a second chance and she's not about to take anything for granted. Intent on living life to the fullest, Sarah reopens her bedding shop, aptly named Cloud 9, and plans a trip to Elk Island, a tiny island off the coast of Maine, where her unfeeling father and runaway son wait. Family reconciliation has long been her heart's desire, and Sarah knows that now is the time to mend familial fences. On the short plane ride to the island, she finds an unexpected confidant in pilot Will Burke, whose own personal demons make him the perfect conversation partner--and so much more. As Sarah struggles to communicate with the father she left behind and a son troubled by his own father's death--and his mother's illness--she takes refuge in the arms of Will and discovers a love she never thought possible, a love that will sustain the two in this life and beyond. Both beautifully written and well plotted, Cloud Nine is a moving testament to the eternal power of love.

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CLLOUD NINE BY LUANNE RICE PDF

Sarah Talbot never thought she'd live to see another birthday. But through indomitable will and expert medical care, she has beaten the cancer and reopened her bedding boutique, Cloud Nine. In celebration, Sarah's friends give her a special present: a ride over her upstate New York town in a chartered plane. It is on this flight that Sarah meets Will Burke, a former Navy pilot, whose outward confidence hides the wounds he has yet to heal. A bond is forged between them. Now Sarah, determined to complete her recovery, decides to visit the isolated Maine island where she grew up -- and where the two most important people in her life, her father and her son, are waiting. Will joins her quest. But the journey will be a heart-wrenching test of her courage, and becoming whole will require the one thing Sarah can least afford: time. Luanne Rice writes with shimmering emotion about people whose lives are fragmented by tragedy and made whole by love. In Cloud Nine she has distilled her power into a novel unforgettably potent, and pure magic.

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Amazon.com Review

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Most helpful customer reviews

23 of 24 people found the following review helpful.

Bittersweet Love Story

By Judith E. Pavlucik

I just finished reading Cloud Nine and could not stop crying, nor could I put the book down until it was finished. Be sure to keep plenty of Kleenex handy, as you will need them for this book!

This was one of the most beautiful love stories I have read and Luann Rice is quickly becoming another favorite author of mine. I just finished reading Home Fires by her the night before and now Cloud Nine - what an emotional ride!!

Rice writes stories that grip your heart and soul and she does not let go until the story is over. Her character portrayal, especially of teen-agers, is so realistic, that you feel that they are your next-door neighbors and closest friends! Cloud Nine embraces all the nuances of family life, which has experienced death and familial loss, and the heartache that that causes. It embodies tragedy in multiple scenarios consisting of divorce, remarriage, cancer, and several deaths, yet, contained within all of these facts, there is a ray of faith and hope that life can and will get better. There is hope of reconciliation and the miracle of love working its magic. The character's lives are not portrayed here as "perfect", but are wrought with dysfunction and pain, due to real-life experiences.

I found this story's ending to be bittersweet and wish that it did end differently, but once again, I am reminded that life is not perfect and life sometimes does not play out as we want it to - it is just life being life. Rice expertly captures that feeling with Cloud Nine and conveys it so beautifully to her readers. You are swept up into the emotions of the drama and you cannot help it.

I absolutely loved this book and once again Rice demonstrates to us that love has a powerful and healing effect, on both the young and the old. Her message is of embracing life each and every day as a gift to yourself and to your loved ones, as one never knows what the next day will bring.

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful.

If every book could be this good, I'd never stop reading!

By A Customer

How did I miss this book in hardcover? It's exactly the kind of story I love--full of emotion, beautifully but simply written, totally romantic, and so TRUE in feeling that every single character comes fully alive. This isn't a pretentious story and, yes, it's a tearjerker but of the best possible sort. I felt so good when I finished reading it--despite the fact that I wished it would never end. So, for anyone who loves good women's fiction, who loves a good love story, who loves to read about families and their complex relationships, this is the PERFECT choice. I can't wait to read more by this author.

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent!

By Amisha Mehta

I loved the story of Sarah Talbot, who owns a bedding store called "Cloud Nine". When the story begins, Sarah is about to take a special flight to celebrate her cancer being in remission. She enjoys the flight so much that she decides to retain the services of the pilot, Will Burke, to take her to Elk Island. She left her hometown years before, but has decided to make the trip back to see her long lost father and the son she left behind.

Along the way, Sarah ends up bonding with Will and his daughter, Susan, and the trio help each other with all of the issues they are facing. I rated the book 4 stars because I'm not a big fan of romance, but in spite of my tastes, I really found myself enjoying the story and wondering what would happen next. If you are new to Luanne Rice, this is a great book to get your feet wet with. Rice is a wonderful source of comfort reads, and this book is no exception. If you are in the mood for a comforting and inspiring story, read "Cloud Nine."

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