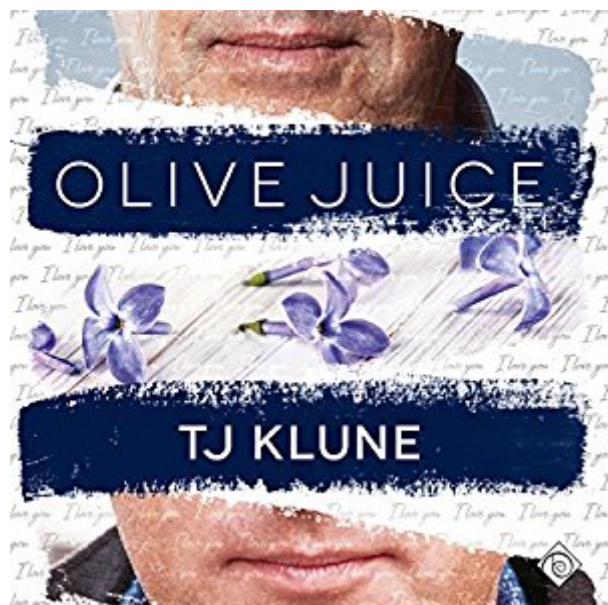


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# Olive Juice



## Synopsis

It begins with a message that David cannot ignore: I want to see you. He agrees, and on a cold winter's night, David and Phillip will come together to sift through the wreckage of the memory of a life no longer lived. David is burdened, carrying with him the heavy guilt of the past six years upon his shoulders. Phillip offers redemption.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Best Sellers Rank: #360 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Romance > Contemporary #415 in Books > Gay & Lesbian > Literature & Fiction > Fiction > Gay #560 in Books > Gay & Lesbian > Literature & Fiction > Fiction > Romance > Gay

## Customer Reviews

when there's a t j klune book to be read, that's all i can do. and i did. and who am i to disagree with the previous readers, all of whom have given it 5 stars. i am embarrassed to share this here, but there are two authors whose books are so intense that i have to go to the end of the book and read the last few pages before i can bring myself to go back and read from where i was. klune is one. stephen king is the other. and yes, i had to read the end, to see if there was a hea, or a modified one. this is a great book, and a great romance.

This book was emotionally devastating. It's two long-term lovers trying to reconnect years after an unimaginable tragedy. David and Phillip had been together for a very long time and have recently separated. It's told in the third person, focusing on David. Through him, you know Phillip, and you know the only redemption can come through him. This is not a sunny, feel-good story. It's real and heartbreaking and can leave you weeping. Sharp, horrifying, devastating, loving, sincere.... it's a powerful and emotional story.

I've never read this author before (I was definitely judging books by their covers and mistakenly had put him in the category of "cheesy gay writers"). So I'm not sure what his other books are like yet...but this one is an ensnaring read that sucked me directly into the swirling contradictions of the main character's inner life. The writing is simple, straightforward and sometimes repetitive - the latter working well as a device because we are directly reading emotions and thoughts, and it also reflects the reality of how we think/feel internally. Anyone who has ever bothered to pay attention to their own inner dialogue (self-talk) will verify just how frequently we repeat the same intertwined thoughts/emotions over & over on any given day, throughout years, even across a lifetime. The author is more-than adept at moving the plot forward by slowly revealing important information - this could have been a completely different book in some hack's hands: a page turner based on carefully plotted points... but, in a pleasantly disarming manner, the author broadens the scope beyond that well-worn template to engage the reader in the inner world of a middle-aged man caught in a struggle that is essentially with himself (well that's what I read but I'm always looking for the subtext). IT IS a page turner because of how the author weaves the human aspects and three-dimensional characters seamlessly into that template of plot-driven points. If this all sounds a bit vague it's because I'm trying to express my visceral response to this book without "spoilers." Additionally, a protagonist in his mid-fifties - who knows it and recognizes the changes which age brings to both the body and the soul - is a remarkable thing to find in any book...and as written here I believe anybody could identify with the cognitive dissonance between what is in their heads and what they present, through words and behaviors, to the outside world. I believe that many of the feelings expressed go beyond the boundaries of plot and characters to reveal universal feelings we all share but rarely, if ever, talk about - hmmm, outside of a therapy session! Plus, while I am in no way a prude, I did appreciate the lack of gratuitous graphic sex. (Sidebar: There are as many other ways of describing passion as there are different types of passion but a majority of books often seem to resort to graphic/gratuitous sexual details as if that is all that is relevant in forming who the characters are. Argh. We need a broader vocabulary). Although it is a short work it manages to pack more into its slim volume - more feeling, more surprising plot twists, more ENGAGEMENT - than books I've read recently by supposedly great writers. Kudos to the author for writing something original from the perspective of characters outside the stereotypes we are all so painfully used to at this point. It's not often we hear from a middle-aged man who does not have a perfect body, live in a modern-day castle or grossly flaunt materialistic gains in a search for his own lost youth. I highly recommend this book and thank the author for words that resonate with their simple but often unspoken truths about the human condition.

Honestly, I didn't know what was really going on at the beginning of this tragic, sad story. I was aware that a traumatic event occurred that was unacceptable.. This, in itself, deepened a painful festering wound. Actually, I made some unwarranted assumptions and judgements. Skillfully( I wouldn't expect anything less from this author) I was gradually led to this unsolvable loss. The emphasis is on unsolvable as one does comprehend the significance of this tale of human suffering. Frankly, at the end of this short story I was in tears. Now, that's what I call a human connection. Was there still a struggle with one's demons? No doubt about it. It had to do with the nature of the loss. Ah, but there was movement toward being alive again after numbness. Oh, yeah, it did help to see how love actually works even during hard, unbearable difficult times. The idea of such support uplifts the human condition beyond the ordinary.

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