



# Save the Date

*Morgan Matson*

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Charlie Grant's older sister is getting married this weekend at their family home, and Charlie can't wait—for the first time in years, all four of her older siblings will be under one roof. Charlie is desperate for one last perfect weekend, before the house is sold and everything changes. The house will be filled with jokes and games and laughs again. Making decisions about things like what college to attend and reuniting with longstanding crush Jesse Foster—all that can wait. She wants to focus on making the weekend perfect.

The only problem? The weekend is shaping up to be an absolute disaster.

There's the unexpected dog with a penchant for howling, house alarm that won't stop going off, and a papergirl with a grudge.

There are the relatives who aren't speaking, the (awful) girl her favorite brother brought home unannounced, and a missing tuxedo.

Not to mention the neighbor who seems to be bent on sabotage and a storm that is bent on drenching everything. The justice of the peace is missing. The band will only play covers. The guests are all crazy. And the wedding planner's nephew is unexpectedly, distractingly...cute.

Over the course of three ridiculously chaotic days, Charlie will learn more than she ever expected about the family she thought she knew by heart. And she'll realize that sometimes, trying to keep everything like it was in the past means missing out on the future.

## Save the Date Details

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Author : Morgan Matson

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## From Reader Review Save the Date for online ebook

### Ashley Nuckles says

Super cute! I loved the family and all the funniness! Can't wait to read more of Morgan Matson's books!

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### Natasha Polis says

More like a 3.5 BECAUSE I'VE NEVRR BEEN MORE STRESSED READING THIS BOOK. BUT DAMN. POIGNANT THERE AT THE END. I feel like as an adult, I got it, it resonated in me, but to a teen this could be just a fun read. But type A personality almost DNF this book so hard. Oh gosh, some scenes I wish I read while taking shots. LOL

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### Maureen says

I loved this SO much and I am very emotional. I think it might've knocked Amy & Roger from my #2 spot of favorite MM books.

I won't really talk in depth about much to spare anyone the waiting but I LOVED the characters, the big family, and all the hijinks.

SO MUCH GOOD STUFF.

Will probably reread and do a video review closer to when the book releases in June.

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### Lola says

Morgan Matson didn't write a book... She wrote a movie.

Truly, this content belongs on a huge Hollywood screen. I can easily picture myself laughing out loud at this wedding fiasco... at the movie theatre.

It's definitely unrealistic. The thing is, I don't at all mind producers stretching reality thin, but when authors do that in my contemporary reads, I get annoyed.

Fortunately, it is not all unrealistic. The characters very much feel real and the family drama entertained me. But although it's a humorous story, I never actually laughed out loud.

My family is small. It consists of me, my mother and my brother. So because I don't have more siblings, let alone a sister, Charlie's family fascinated me. I grew attached to them. This almost makes me reconsider my movie statement since a comedy movie never lasts long enough and I need to spend lots of quality time with this family.

So I wouldn't be opposed to a TV show if there's enough content. What I'm saying is, I am not entirely pleased with this author—even if the storyline was quite entertaining—because I just know it in my heart that this is a story meant to be viewed, not read.

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## jessica says

i grew up with a small family - just my parents and younger brother. i do have a bigger extended family, but they lived so far away that i rarely saw them. so reading books about large family dynamics is always exciting for me because i get a chance to experience something unfamiliar.

and i think family is the one thing this book did right. i absolutely adored all of the interactions and banter between the grant siblings. there was a moment where i felt overwhelmed with all of the characters (there were a lot of them) and was worried there would be too many to even care about, but i loved the bickering, support, teasing, and love. it felt very real and genuine, which was refreshing because the rest of the book was quite absurd.

i didnt hate it, but it got to the point where one bad thing happening after another (in the most ridiculous way possible, i might add) became too unrealistic to enjoy. i understand a faux pas here and there for comedic value, but this was literally one disaster after another. unfortunately, it just became more frustrating than it was funny, as it just felt all over the place with too much going on.

overall, this was light and fun, in true morgan matson fashion. and even though the storyline itself fell short for me, the focus on what it means to be a family and appreciating those who love you was the books one redeeming quality.

? 3.5 stars

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## may ❀ says

i adore weddings, like its such a fun time for celebration ft. mountains of food and a free space where no one will judge you for stuffing your face

honestly, does it get better??

so going into this book, i was highkey ready for that 5 star rating and well, i didn't dislike it, but it didn't shake my world either

### *Pros*

- BIG. NOISY. FAMILY.
- fun, lighthearted, family-oriented plot
- ft. //that// brother that always has the lame jokes that everyone rolls their eyes at but secretly loves
- disasters upon disasters

- CLARK'S FRICKEN CAMEO I SCREAMED MY NERD BABY
- wedding nightmares (this isn't a pro if you're the bride, but its hilarious to see that no matter how much you plan, weddings can never just **go right**)
- the cover's so cute and fun
- THE COMICS FEATURED i could honestly get more of that
- the alaRM
- seriously i loved the family dynamics sm its just so fun to see big dysfunctional families featured in ya
- beagle

### **Cons**

- while i generally loved the plot and idea behind the book, the execution wasn't as dazzling
- i found the plot draggggeedddd over a course of 400 pages when it really didn't need to
- i couldn't connect with our mc even tho she seemed to check all the boxes
- (she was really idk, standoff-ish to her bro's gf and i was just not here for it- yes yes, character development and all, but idk it was meh for me)
- the romance also didn't go for me. usually i adore Matson's love interests, but this one really seemed like a sub-sub plot and the whole love triangle dynamic had me uninterested

overall, it was a really fun, summer, read and i would totally recomend it as something lighthearted and fun but i didn't feel like it was a book you could get lost inside

3.5 stars!!

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I REQUESTED THIS ON NETGALLEY ON A WHIM AND SOMEHOW I GOT ACCEPTED HOW DID THIS HAPPEN IM SO FJDAKLFJDAL;FJA EXCITED AND HAPPY

*much thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for accepting my request. all opinions are mineeeee*

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### **Warda says**

This book had one of the best family dynamics that I've read in a long time. So loving, so flawed and so funny!

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### **Giselle (Book Nerd Canada) says**

Will read/buy anything she writes

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## **Regan says**

4.5

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## **Heather 'Bookables' says**

3.75/5

It was all about a wedding which is my jam so I loved reading behind the scenes of one. I also enjoyed how it mostly centered around the Grant family & the complexity of the relationships between them all.

? ?

I'm not going to lie, this book annoyed me at times. Mostly the situations in it really. Almost every situation if something could go wrong, it did...big time. It often reminded me of some movies where crazy situations keep happening which give me such bad anxiety honestly. ?

Overall I did really enjoy this book and would say it's a great summer read. It's long but fast to fly through and you will fall in love with the Grant family & Waffles The dog of course!

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## **Shreya (?High Lady of The Night Court?) says**

Charlie Grant is finally going to have her entire family under one roof. Her 4 siblings Danny, JJ, Mike, and Linnie are going to spend the weekend in the Grant home for one last time before her parents sell the house. Linnie's long time dream of getting married in the Grant home is finally coming true but it's not going to be easy and everything seems to have a way of going wrong. From power outages, to not having a suit, and that crazy alarm that won't stop going off, they have more than enough on their hands. The book start with the grant family reuniting but also with the news that their event planner was embezzling money and is no longer their event planner for obvious reasons.

Charlie has to pick a college to attend, but she's not sure she wants to leave home especially when her parents are selling the house, so she is considering going to the college in her town. Charlie usually gets wrapped up in her siblings because they're together so rarely and she struggles to maintain her life outside her family.

I like that this book focuses on family dynamics and how the wedding is coming together rather than focusing on the romance. The romance is only a small part of the book which is not a bad thing because this family is amazing and watching them have fun, make jokes, and the overall shenanigans is great. This family is just so adorable, each of their personalities mesh very well and watching Charlie reminisce the things that have happened in this house is wonderful. Linnie's to be husband, Rodney, has practically been a part of this family since they started dating. The entire Grant family considers him family anyway and they all get along, so no trouble on that end.

I loved that parts of this book was hilarious and loving and the other parts was serious yet brought the family together. The relationship between each of the siblings is mind blowing and watching this entire family have their own inside jokes, bets, insults, and nicknames is heartwarming. Just seeing this family function in their own unique way is mesmerizing and seeing them try to function through all the problems that occur in the span of two days is hilarious. I love that this book was so funny at times.

I flew through this book, not kidding, I finished it in the same day I started it all while ignoring a ton of work I really had to do, so just another day in my life. This book was beautiful and heartwarming, I give it 5 stars and recommend it to contemporary lovers.

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### emma says

This wasn't even slightly what I expected/have long wanted from this book.....but I think I liked it???

Like. I think I liked it a lot???

I DON'T KNOW BUT. EXCITING.

review to come!!

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I bought a signed first edition of this book (good). But my copy had three stickers on the dust jacket (bad). Not a single one of those stickers came off easily and NOW THERE ARE TRACES OF STICKER GOOP PRESENT.

WHICH IS VERY, VERY BAD INDEED.

If the rest of this reading experience isn't a massive improvement the universe will collapse in on itself like a dying star.

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### Nat says

It was that feeling like when the lights come up after a movie—how it takes a minute to let go of the world you'd been immersed in.

I've been patiently waiting for this newest Matson's book, back when its release date had been set for the same day as Sarah Dessen's *Once and For All*, both surrounding the wedding season, though, the latter is more on planning than attending one. **Save the Date** still holds the same hectic atmosphere since the main event - the wedding - is taking place at the Grant's house with a bunch of siblings set to arrive all at once.

But I'm getting ahead of myself. Let's start at the beginning:

Charlie Grant's older sister is getting married this weekend at their family home, and Charlie can't wait—for the first time in years, all four of her older siblings will be under one roof. Charlie is desperate for one last perfect weekend, before the house is sold and everything changes. The house will be filled with jokes and games and laughs again. Making decisions about things like what college to attend and reuniting with longstanding crush Jesse Foster—all that can wait. She wants to focus on making the weekend perfect.

The only problem? The weekend is shaping up to be an absolute disaster.

Over the course of three ridiculously chaotic days, Charlie will learn more than she ever expected about the family she thought she knew by heart. And she'll realize that sometimes, trying to keep everything like it was in the past means missing out on the future.

I forgot how quickly these contemporary reads go by. You start to get into it and then poof the book's over.

**Save the Date**, in particular, hit it off with a bang by starting with a romantic get-together that swept me right into the storyline. I'm a (low-key) sucker for obsessional crushes, so seeing Charlie's keenness on her childhood crush was all too real; Jesse Foster is no longer a boy in her eyes, but a mythical figure that can do no wrong.

The book hits the mark on experiencing unrequited crushes and observing from the sidelines. Like my favorite quote from **To All the Boys I've Loved Before** conveys: *'You'd rather make up a fantasy version of somebody in your head than be with a real person.'*

I mean, I can't stop thinking about this:

*"Jesse didn't move over from his spot on the middle cushion, so when I sat on the couch, I was closer to him than I had ever been before, **except for two memorable occasions**—when we'd been stuck in an elevator together at a laser tag place for Mike's fourteenth birthday, and a memorable car ride when I was twelve and we'd been coming back from playing mini golf in Hartfield, all of us crammed into the car, and somehow, I'd ended up in the way back next to Jesse, Mike on his other side. And Jesse kept turning to talk to Mike, which meant he kept leaning into me, his bare leg pressing against mine. It had been a thirty-minute ride home, and the whole time, I'd prayed for a traffic jam, a road closure, a flat tire—anything to keep it going longer. So, as I sat on the couch next to him now, it was with full awareness that this proximity to him—voluntary, as opposed to car-logistic mandated—was a brand-new thing."*

\*rubs hands together\* Now, it's getting good.

*"She didn't know what it was like to look and wish and want, always two steps behind the person, always on the edges of their life. What it was like to stand next to someone and know you weren't registering with them, not in any meaningful way. That you thought about someone a thousand times more than they'd ever thought about you. **To know that you were just a face in the crowd scenes while they were center stage.** And then, all at once, to have the spotlight finally swing over to you. To suddenly be visible, to be seen, no longer one of the people in the background who never get any lines. To suddenly be in the midst of something you'd only ever looked at from the sidelines. What that felt like when it finally happened, dropped in your lap when you were least expecting it, like a gift you were half-afraid to open."*

This right here is exactly why I so love Wren's line from Fangirl: *"That moment," she told Cath, "when you realize that a guy's looking at you differently—that you're taking up more space in his field of vision. That moment when you know he can't see past you anymore."*

I'll never tire of seeing books get it right when discussing something close to heart. I was living vicariously through Charlie and Jesse's interactions, which is why this became such a pivotal reading experience for me



when it went the extra mile of showing the reason these types of crushes don't tend to develop any further is because you hold them on this invisible pedestal, whereas for them you're just a body in a crowd.

*“He was a nice guy. He was cute, and he was a great kisser. But that was actually all I really knew about him, Jesse the actual person. I couldn’t have told you his favorite movie, or his roommate’s name, or his greatest fear. **He wasn’t who I thought he was all those years, because that person didn’t exist.** That Jesse was just a compilation of everything I’d projected onto him, coupled with a handful of real-life interactions that I’d given far too much value to.”*

Her anthem should include Dua Lipa's New Rules.

## Source

Analysing and reading into their every move can become exhausting really quickly, so I was beyond grateful to safely experience from the sidelines where all this can lead to with **Save the Date** . (Another great book that touches upon this is The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah.)

I'm putting that major revelation aside by moving on to discuss the actual book, which is 'what you see is what you get' synopsis-wise since the entirety of it is set around three hectic wedding days (without any major flashbacks). Consequently, the usual contemporary, summer fun isn't quite as present here as with Matson's previous books, especially when each developing storyline could be detected from a mile away.

The only remaining upside **Save the Date** held for me were Charlie's siblings with their dynamic personalities put into one house. It's the little things that made them seem so close to me. Like, calling for "witnesses" when making a bet, or their "not it" gesture of pulling on their earlobe.

*“This was one of the thousands of tiny things that only happened when we were together, one of the things you didn’t know you’d miss until it was gone.”*

It's these details that are able to procure real, authentic moments.

*“Mike Drop?”*

*“No!” I said quickly. Mike Drops were something that J.J. and Danny had done a lot when Mike was in elementary school and they were much, much bigger than he was. It was true to its name—Danny would pick up Mike, yell “Mike Drop!” and toss him in the air and J.J. would dash in and catch him just before he hit the floor. All of which had worked out great when Mike was six. But as they’d all gotten older, J.J. sometimes forgot to catch him, and they had a way of getting people injured, sometimes all three of them in the same Mike Drop.”*

They were a never-ending hoot to read about. As well as the scarcely *Grant Central Station* comic strips scattered throughout.

Plus, there's the added bonus of featuring quite the creative chapter titles that make for a compelling road ahead, with favorites including: *“Or, Acronyms Are Not Always a Good Idea Or, AANAAGI”* & *“Or, 98% of*

*All Statistics Are Made Up on the Spot."*

Overall, **Save the Date** was an enjoyable YA read, though a bit rushed in places, and included just the right amount of fun and laughter.

*Note: I'm an Amazon Affiliate. If you're interested in buying **Save the Date**, just click on the image below to go through my link. I'll make a small commission!*

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This review and more can be found on my blog.

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### **Claudia Ramírez says**

Ohhhh. This was so FUNNY and CUTE. My first Morgan Matson's book :).

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### **(Bern) Mom to 2 Posh Lil Divas says**

*"How was it that you only fully realized what you had when it was gone? And I knew there would be new friends, new experiences, maybe even amazing adventures ahead of me. But I felt like I needed, for just a moment, to appreciate what I was - what we all were - leaving behind."*

Save the Date was such an enjoyable, comfy read. The Grant family was the kind of family we'd all want to be a part of. They were funny, imperfect, loving and so real. It felt like I was in their house the entire time I was reading.

The plot revolves around Linnie's wedding and the weekend of festivities which coincide with the mom's final installment of her famed comic strip which was loosely based off the family. Now, it's impossible to sum everything up that happens in that 1 tidy sentence. There was lots of family drama, & wedding mishaps along the way but what really grabbed me was the sibling relationships in the story. Charlie's love for her brothers & sister and her utter devotion to the Grant family shine through so vividly. It was hard not to fall in love with this bunch.

This was a perfect summer read - quick, light, funny & heartwarming.

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