



# **The Little Wedding Shop by the Sea**

*Jane Linfoot*

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Brides by the Sea, the cutest little wedding shop in all of Cornwall, has it all, including cake baker Poppy who lives upstairs. But wedding planning is not the piece of cake Poppy thought it would be, and when her best friend Cate's wedding planner walks out, Poppy has to tie up the loose ends so her bestie can tie the knot.

Double-booked venues, 'rustic' locations and gorgeous but grumpy farmer Rafe have this wedding pro feeling like she could be Cate's 'something blue.'

Will the wedding, the shop and the cake all come crashing down on her? Or will Poppy pull it off to give Cate – and herself – the happy ever afters they deserve?

## **The Little Wedding Shop by the Sea Details**

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# From Reader Review The Little Wedding Shop by the Sea for online ebook

## Karen Mace says

I received a copy of this via NetGalley and HarperImpulse in return for a fair and honest review

This was an absolute delight of a book to read! So warm, full of extremely likeable characters and a storyline full of depth beyond the normal feel good romances!

Poppy lives about the wedding shop, with views over the sea! It's not the biggest flat in the world but she loves it and it is where she is happiest after her traumatic break up with Brett, and where she can lose herself when she's baking and creating wedding cakes of the highest quality.

With her best friends Jess and Cate around her she gets to start to move on with her life, even though the wedding shop is a constant reminder of her personal life not having the happy ending she was hoping for. And when a job opportunity arises at Daisy Hill Farm to help push the wedding business there she reluctantly accepts. Standing in her way at the farm is the rather grumpy, but hot, farmer Rafe who is very set in his ways and fully focused on life at the farm and not the business goldmine he is sitting on with the idyllic setting of the farm. Poppy takes to wedding planning well, but farm life takes a little while for her to get used to! And when the wedding photographer Jules appears on the scene, it appears that Poppy may have more than one admirer to distract her from past lost loves!

It was so much fun seeing the relationship between Poppy and Rafe develop and how they both end up helping each other see different aspects to their lives and how they can push themselves out of their comfort zones. Really enjoyed seeing how Poppy and her friends dealt with the often chaotic wedding days and it was all written so beautifully and in a fun way that I can't wait for more from the series!!

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## Amy-Maus87 says

Inhalt:

„Bridges by the Sea“ ist ein kleiner Brautladen mitten in Cornwall, der keinen Wunsch an Brautkleidern und Leckereien offenlässt. Hier lebt auch Poppy, die diese verführerischen Kuchen backt und mit ihrem Leben ganz zufrieden scheint. Doch plötzlich verändert sich ihr sorgenloses Leben und sie soll als Hochzeitsplanerin einspringen. Kann sie dieser Aufgabe gewachsen sein?

Meine Meinung:

„Der kleine Brautladen“ am Strand ist das erste Buch der Autorin aus der „Wedding Shop“ Reihe, dass mich gleich mit seinem liebevoll gestalten Cover in den Bann gezogen hat und das Interesse nach mehr weckte.

Der Schreibstil des Buches ist von Anfang an herrlich leicht und locker und als Leser lernen wir direkt Poppy kennen, die oberhalb des kleinen Brautladens lebt und mit einer Inbrunst Kuchen und andere Leckereien für Kunden zaubert. Poppy habe ich als Mensch von Anfang sehr gemocht, weil sie ein liebevoller Charakter ist und sehr für Ihre Freundinnen einsteht, die auch nicht unerwähnt bleiben dürfen. Die Autorin hat nicht nur Poppy einen wundervollen Charakter verliehen, sondern auch ihren engsten Freunden, die nicht unterschiedlicher sein könnten aber gemeinsam eine wunderbare Mischung an Charakteren

ergaben.

Neben der leichten Schreibweise ist dieses Buch auch sehr bildhaft beschrieben, sodass ich mich ganz oft dabei erwische, wie ich mich selbst in den Brautladen geträumt habe, um all die tollen Kleider anzuprobieren. Die Geschichte an sich ist sehr unterhaltsam und natürlich darf auch die Liebe nicht fehlen. In meinen Augen ist es keine klassische Liebesgeschichte, weil das Thema der Freundschaft auch einen großen Stellenwert einnimmt und somit einen hohen Unterhaltungswert erzeugt, der mich begeistern konnte.

Mein Fazit:

Eine sommerlich leichte Lektüre, die auch ideal für den anstehenden Sommerurlaub ist. Mich hat sie sehr gut unterhalten, sodass ich gerne 5 Sterne vergabe und gespannt auf den zweiten Band warte, der im Dezember erscheinen wird.

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## **Suze Lavender says**

Poppy bakes wedding cakes for a living and she rents an apartment above Brides by the Sea, a wedding shop. She knows a lot about weddings, which is why she's being asked as a wedding planner on Daisy Hill Farm. She has to take the job to help out her good friend Cate who's booked a wedding at the farm. The previous wedding planner has made a mess of things and Poppy should be able to clean it up. She wants to make sure every couple that has booked their special day at the farm will actually have it. That means she has to solve plenty of problems and she has to be creative when things aren't going according to plan.

The farmer, Rafe, is moody and he isn't happy with the wedding business. It brings in money, but he doesn't have to like it. Besides keeping her cake business going and making sure the wedding business at the farm runs smoothly Poppy now also has a boss who makes things extra difficult, but she can handle a challenge and she might even like it, a lot...

Cupcakes & Confetti - The Little Wedding Shop by the Sea (1) is a wonderful book. I loved it from the first sentence. I'm a romantic person and therefore love to read about weddings. Jane Linfoot describes the whole process in such a vivid and detailed way that I could picture myself shopping for a dress at Brides by the Sea and booking a countryside wedding at the farm. Her settings are amazing and I couldn't get enough of reading about them. The farm is stunning and it's the ideal location for a wedding. The shop is fun and classy with a fabulous selection of clothes. Plus there are plenty of mouthwatering descriptions of food and drinks, what's not to like?

Poppy is a sweet person and she's always there for others. Someone took advantage of that and broke her heart, so she's reluctant to start a relationship again and wants to make it on her own. She has some very good friends who support her no matter what. The friendship in this book is heartwarming and it made me smile many times. Poppy manages to get herself in all kinds of uncomfortable and often funny situations and I love Jane Linfoot's sense of humor. She also knows how to create good chemistry. Rafe is moody and kind at the same time. He's a hot farmer with a sensible head on his shoulders. He's the perfect main character for a very romantic story.

Jane Linfoot's writing is fantastic. Her sentences are well-constructed and they have an easy flow. Once I started this book I couldn't put it away. I loved the ending, it's a dream come true and it will melt everyone's heart. Cupcakes & Confetti - The Little Wedding Shop by the Sea (1) is a delicious summer read with enchanting locations, gorgeous main characters, a lot of unexpected twists and turns and plenty of surprises.

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## **Rebecca says**

Review to follow!

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## **Simona says**

\*Book provided by the publisher on NetGalley in exchange for an honest review\*

I think it's safe to say that this is my favourite Jane Linfoot book so far. I liked all her previous ones, but this one is on another level, I just couldn't put it down.

The story follows Poppy, who is a cake baker and works and lives above a little wedding shop. When her best friend Cate's wedding planner quits, they all want Poppy to take over: Cate, their best friend Immie and also her colleagues at the store. Poppy is not sure, but does it anyway.

This means that she now works closely with Rafe, the farm owner, where the weddings will take place. Rafe is a really grumpy, moody and bad tempered person and he doesn't like weddings at all. Of course this doesn't make the situation easier. She suddenly has so much to do and things of course go wrong as well. Rafe is another challenge, but she can handle him and spending time with also awakens other feelings. She is confused at first and also doesn't want a relationship, because of what happened with her ex. Rafe is actually really hot and he changes throughout the book. Learning about his past makes things clear and the things he does in this book are quite adorable actually.

All the characters in this book are well lined out, relatable and they have great chemistry. Reading about the wedding shop and about what the girls do there, was incredible. It felt like walking through the shop myself, Jane has such a vivid way to describe places and scenes and she added a lot of great humour in this book. I totally got hooked and adored this book from the first page onwards. It's a sweet, romantic and adorable story, with wonderful scenes, deep thoughts and amazing characters.

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## **Jenny O'Brien says**

Excellent feel good beach read

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## **Gitti says**

Poppy hat ein gebrochenes Herz und ein Hochzeitskleid, dass sie nicht mehr braucht. Sie lebt über einem Brautmodenladen und bäckt Hochzeitstorten. Damit kommt sie halbwegs über die Runden. Als die Hochzeitsplanerin ihrer besten Freundin Clare den Job hinschmeißt und damit die Hochzeitslocation gefährdet ist, springt Poppy ein und übernimmt den Job als Hochzeitsplanerin bei Rafe auf der Farm. Das ist am Anfang nicht ganz einfach, hasst Rafe doch Hochzeiten. Aber im Laufe der Zeit regelt sich so manches von alleine.

Das Buch ist in Ich-Form aus der Sicht Poppys geschrieben und erinnert manchmal ein wenig an ein Tagebuch, oder an Briefe an eine liebe Freundin. Manchmal hat mich Poppy mit ihrer sturen "Ich will aber nie wieder eine Beziehung"-Art genervt, übersieht sie dabei doch welche Türen sich für sie öffnen. Aber gut, wie in so einem Buch zu erwarten regelt sich vieles dann doch.

Durch die Ich-Form sind mir aber leider die anderen Figuren etwas zu oberflächlich geblieben, da man von deren Gefühlsleben überhaupt nichts mitbekommt und selbst die Freundinnen untereinander selten längere Gespräche führen, in denen man das ein oder andere hätte erfahren können.

Das klingt jetzt schlimmer als es war, ich habe das Buch gerne gelesen. Ob ich allerdings den angekündigten Nachfolgebänd (Winter im kleinen Brautladen am Strand, ET: Sep 18) lesen werde, ist fraglich. Dafür ist mir das Setting nicht weit genug ans Herz gewachsen.

Von mir gibt es hier 3 von 5 Sterne für einen durchschnittlichen Liebesroman.

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### **Emma Crowley says**

Cupcakes and Confetti is the first in a planned series from Jane Linfoot entitled The Wedding Shop by the Sea and also the first book I have read by this author. Book two Sequins and Snowflakes is to arrive at the end of September and after reading this gorgeous book I can't wait for the second to be published. This was a thoroughly enjoyable read from start to finish with plenty of humour, stunning settings, tantalising descriptions of wedding cakes and not to mention glittering, magical wedding dresses. There is something here for everyone who is a fan of the chick lit genre but also books which feature something that little bit different.

There is a huge amount of books published featuring bakeries, book shops, sweet shops etc but this is the first I have read set in and around a wedding shop and the surrounding areas. With such a huge influx of books in a similar vein there could be a chance people may grow bored easily with this current trend. I don't feel that way at all and just wish authors could write books like this even quicker. Once you finish one book like this you just want to dive straight into another. Jane Linfoot has brought her characters vividly to life with an engaging plot that has you turning the pages deeply immersed in the lives of Poppy, Cate and Immie not to mention all the goings on both at Daisy Hill Farm and Brides by the Sea.

The cover alone for this book is one which really stands out and when it was revealed on Twitter there was a rush of appreciation for something so simple yet so beautiful. The items on the window sill give hints as to the themes of this book weddings and cupcakes galore and who wouldn't want to be sitting at the window gazing out at the incredible scenery whilst you try on the dress of your dreams? Jane mentions that she writes fun, flirty fiction with feisty heroines that have a bit of an edge and that's exactly what I got with this book alongside a devilish handsome man who captured my heart immediately. I can honestly say I spent a pleasurable few hours totally absorbed in a wonderful story with characters I found hard to leave behind once the final page was turned.

The book takes us through the months from February to September - you could almost compare it to the majority of the wedding season. All the focus is not solely on weddings as it also has a few other storylines neatly slipped in. Poppy Pickering lives in the attic above the wedding shop run by Jesse, she creates fabulous cakes for weddings and any occasion and has a natural talent for it. Immediately the descriptions of cupcakes and icing etc was just tantalising and I regretted not having something sweet to hand to eat and

enjoy whilst reading. Poppy has been hurt in the past and can't seem to move on. Baking and creating is her therapy but there will come a point where the money she earns is realistically not enough and she will have to take a move forward both in her personal and professional life. Hiding out in the attic whilst not confronting what her heart is telling her can only go on for so long before her heart and mind start saying it's time to move on with your life and place Brett and his antics firmly in the past. There is someone better for you out there and with a little help, support and guidance from friends Poppy can come out stronger on the other side.

Jess is the owner of Brides by the Sea and with dress designer Sera on board things are on the up with brides coming from far and near to sample all the shop has to offer. Even the descriptions of the shop were fantastic with the grooms wear section, scintillating shoe room, colourful cakes, fantastic flowers and the ever busy bridesmaid beach hut. Initially I did think the sole focus of the book would be on Jess, Sera and Poppy as they navigate the ups and downs associated with running a wedding emporium but to my delight Poppy's best friends Cate and Immie became the main feature along with Poppy. This left me questioning would Jess and Sera play a more prominent role in Sequins and Snowflakes?

Immie works as a cleaner at the holiday cottages on Daisy Hill Farm with the gorgeous if slightly stand-offish Rafe. The farm is the perfect venue for weddings, the only problem is the events co-ordinator has quit and friend Cate is due to hold her wedding there in September. Immie and Poppy know Cate deserves the wedding of her dreams and much more but what can they do if Rafe is going to cancel all the weddings that had been pre booked. Of course Immie has an ingenious idea - Poppy should apply for the position and if she doesn't like it by the conclusion of Cate's wedding at least she knows she did everything for her friend even if the venue cannot be saved. This idea seemed to come out of nowhere and I thought it was so admirable of Poppy to take such a bold and brave step to secure her friends joy and happiness. Yes she knew she needed to take a step out of her comfort zone and enjoyable as baking cakes is it really wasn't enough to make her financially stable. I was going to say Immie hadn't much of a storyline and being a single mum to fourteen year old Morgan could have been utilised much more but on reflection Immie had her dash of romance but really she played a blinder in pushing Poppy forward for the job. She obviously had a long term plan in place and knew Daisy Hill Farm was special and could work its magic on Poppy even if Rafe was an obstacle that had to be overcome. I loved this quote which is a great motto for life and really struck a chord with me as it proved so relevant 'Our scars make us who we are. Wear them proudly, and move forward.'

Once Poppy to her surprise gets the job as new events co-ordinator for Daisy Hill Farm the book moves along at a lovely steady pace and becomes full of mishaps and mistakes but also it is filled with some lovely touching moments. The story progresses through the months as Poppy tries to do the best for each wedding that has been booked whilst not upsetting Rafe. We really see a more mature, wiser Poppy emerging. She is ready to get stuck into things it's almost like she is a butterfly emerging from a chrysalis as she undergoes a transformation. Her confidence shines through but as for the more romantic element of things. I was shouting in frustration as miscommunication and an unwillingness to emotionally open up and confront true feelings played havoc but love never plays a smooth even game.

Rafe was a fantastic male character. He wasn't forced in your face but was there when needed. Just like Poppy I wasn't fully sure what to make of him, he seemed to be hiding things and could sound abrupt at times with the livestock of the farm more on his mind rather than the wedding side of things which Poppy was doing her utmost to save. I do have to say it's normally a dog that steals my heart in books like this but instead this time it was a chicken Henrietta who provided the most comical of moments just when things seemed to be getting a bit tense. I loved all the descriptions of the various weddings taking place on the farm and of how Poppy was an absolute star doing her best to please everyone. Anyone planning a wedding would do well to read this book as there is so much inspiration to be found and for someone who has no experience

with weddings etc none of the elements of the story put me off. Nothing was overdone instead such beautiful imagery was conjured up nicely along with the hilarious antics of women who you would never think could turn out like bridezilla's. One of the highlights was Cate's hen do. It left me with tears of laughter streaming down my face and I was firmly glad it was the girls rather than me on such an eventful night out.

Cupcakes and Confetti was just a joy to read from start to finish, everyone who picks it up will fall in love with Poppy and be rooting for her. She is a character who deserves to put the past firmly behind her. To come out of her shell and embrace a new path in life. Sometimes we just need that little push from an unexpected source and although the road may be bumpy there proved to be lots of fun, laughter and mayhem providing her with just the tonic she needed. Take your time and savour every moment of the wonderful story which will put you in a really good mood. There are no lulls or boring bits, yes you may guess the outcome fairly early on but it in no way detracts from the overall storyline as there was plenty to be played out before we reached the end of a story that was captivating and sparkling.

Jane Linfoot was a new author to me but she has demonstrated that she has such a lovely way with words and descriptions and a unique ability to create settings and characters that you really care for. I'm more than eager to return to the Wedding Shop by the Sea as there must be more in store for this cast of characters or as I have mentioned Jess and Sera. Jane Linfoot has come up with a clever storyline and ran with it and to great success. The release of Sequins and Snowflakes can't come quick enough for me. Meanwhile do go out and buy this treat of a book as I have absolutely no hesitation in recommending it.

Many thanks to Jane Linfoot for our copy of Cupcakes and Confetti -The Little Wedding Shop by the Sea to review and to Sharon for having my review on the blog.

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## **Sky says**

The Little Wedding Shop by the Sea by Jane Linfoot was such a delightful read!

Set in Cornwall the story follows Poppy who lives in the attic of a wedding shop. She is a cake baker and also helps out her friend in the wedding shop.

Persuaded by her friend Poppy ends up becoming the wedding planner at Daisy Hill Farm. Things turn out to be rather hard for her to manage thanks to Rafe, the owner of the farm.

Can Poppy turn things around and save the day for her friend Cate and her wedding?

Find out in the first installment in this brand new series.

This book is the perfect weekend read!

Thankyou to HarperCollins UK for a copy of this book via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Kim says**

This book had everything that would draw me initially to a book- a gorgeous cover, a book about weddings and cakes and it's set in my favourite place in the World, Cornwall.

It just created all sorts of beautiful images throughout of delightful wedding scenes and frothy tulle and



delicious cupcakes.

Poppy lives in the attic of a wonderful wedding shop called Brides by the Sea. She creates beautiful cakes and helps out in her friends shop. Her rooms have a delightful porthole view out onto the Cornish coastal town and I could just imagine curling up there with a great book, a pink cupcake and a glass of their Prosecco or a cocktail made just for me!

When Poppy's best friends wedding planner drops out, she takes on the job to ensure that Cate gets the wedding of her dreams. The book combines wonderful friendships, a grumpy boss who just happens to be stunning. He also has a well hidden heart of gold and makes tasty bacon sandwiches at just the vital moment. There is also a bridezilla to contend with.

Daisy Hill Farm sounds the wonderful setting for a wedding and lots of very heartwarming scenes take place there. I can't wait to spend Christmas at Daisy Hill Farm in the next book in the series.

I recently saw Jane at a Birmingham get together for writers and bloggers and she is so lovely and bubbly. She will be joining my list of authors to wait on the next book being released!

With many thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for the chance to read this lovely book.

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### **Tiaras Bücherzimmer says**

#### **Inhalt:**

Nach einer gescheiterten Beziehung, bietet Poppys Freundin ihr die Wohnung über ihrem Brautladen mietfrei an. Sie muß dazu nur ihre berühmten Torten backen und ab und zu im Laden aushelfen. Zu allem Übel springt dann auch noch die Hochzeitsplanerin ihrer Freundin ab und Poppy stimmt zu, die ganze Hochzeit auszurichten.....

#### **Meine Meinung:**

Angesprochen haben mich hier das wunderschöne Cover und der Klappentext.

Leider muß ich sagen, dass ich hier doch etwas enttäuscht wurde, denn der Brautladen spielt nur eine nebeneordnete Rolle.

In der Hauptsache geht es um die Hochzeit, die auf dem Bauernhof des sehr mürrischen Farmers Rafe ausgerichtet werden soll. Und Rafe ist wirklich sehr wankelmütig, sodass ich am liebsten öfters ins Buch gesprungen wäre, um ihn mal richtig zu schütteln.

Bei Poppy war ich etwas zwiegespalten, einerseits mochte ich sie, denn sie tat mir sehr Leid, wie sie von ihrem Ex behandelt wurde, keinerlei Selbstbewußtsein mehr hatte und auch die Geschichte um ihr Brautkleid fand ich sehr traurig. Da war es schön zu lesen, wie sie nach und nach immer mehr aus ihrem Schneckenhaus herauskommt. Doch war sie mir aber auch oft zu mürrisch.

Aber insgesamt war die Geschichte schön zu lesen, der Schreibstil ist sehr locker und leicht und als leichte Lektüre für zwischendrin kann ich das Buch durchaus empfehlen.

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### **Tinstamp says**

Der Titel und das süße Cover versprechen hier einen leichten Liebesroman rund um Brautmode/Hochzeiten und einem sommerlichen Feeling am Meer. Bekommen habe ich einen seichten Liebesroman, der zwischen Kühen und Farmhäusern spielt und wo unsere Protagonistin, die eigentlich Hochzeitstorten bäckt, von einem Tag auf den anderen Hochzeiten organisieren soll. Ich habe mir hier keine höhere Literatur erwartet, sondern leichte und romantische Unterhaltung - die suchte ich allerdings vergeblich.

Wo bitte ist das Meer und der Strand, der im Titel vorkommt? (ebenso im Originaltitel!) Der einzige Hinweis darauf ist die Erwähnung, dass Poppys Wohnung über den Brautsalon einen Meerblick hat, danach kommt das Wort "Meer" auf den 400 Seiten allerdings nicht mehr vor. Wäre der Roman richtig toll geschrieben..... mit berührenden Momenten, einem Hauch Romantik und humorvollen Szenen, dann hätte ich noch ein Auge zudrücken können, denn es geht ja um den Inhalt und nicht um Titel und Cover.

Aber was mich hier erwartet hat, hat mich teilweise nur den Kopf schütteln lassen: unsympathische und unrealistische Charaktere, eine sehr flache Handlung, sehr viel Alkohol, weder ein Spannungsbogen noch ein roter Faden. Tussis, die sich nur um Äußerlichkeiten sorgen und deren einzige Sorgen sind, dass der Farbton des Brautjungferkleidchen nicht zu ihrem Teint passt...

Auch Poppy, unsere Hauptprotagonistin, ein Stadtpflänzchen, obwohl auf dem Land aufgewachsen, aber sehr bald von dort geflüchtet, bekam von mir nicht viele Sympathiepunkte. Die etwas naive und oberflächliche Poppy hat die Trennung von ihrem langjährigen Freund und Verlobten noch nicht ganz überwunden, als sie neben ihren Job als Tortenbäckerin für die abgesprungene Hochzeitsplanerin ihrer Freundin Cate einspringen soll. Die Location für die Hochzeitsfeierlichkeiten ist ein etwas heruntergekommener Gutshof mit einem mürrischen Besitzer. Als Poppy dort aufkreuzt, teilt sie ihr Büro mit Henne Berta, die im Papierkorb ihre Eier ausbrütet. Und Poppy nimmt die neue Herausforderung natürlich mit links und verwandelt innerhalb eines halbes Jahres den Gutshof in eine hippe Hochzeitslocation...ohne Ausbildung und noch neben ihrem eigentlichen Hauptjob...eh klar! Dabei schaut sie des öfteren zu tief ins Glas und wird im kleinen Dorf gleich von zwei attraktiven Männern umgarnt.

Die besagten Freundinnen sind ziemlich oberflächlich und stereotyp. Cate gibt zu viel Geld für die Hochzeit aus, Immie wird anfangs als eher biedere Landfrau dargestellt und wird dann zum männermordenen Vamp (konnte sich die Autorin hier nicht entscheiden?), Jess, die Besitzerin des Brautladens ist eine knallharte Geschäftsfrau und Sera, die Designerin der Brautkleider, wird nur anfangs kurz erwähnt. Auch Jule, der Fotograf, entsprang dem Modejournal, sah umwerfend aus, ist aber ein Schlappschwanz.

Einzig Rafe, der grummelige Gutsbesitzer, bei dem die zukünftigen Hochzeitsfeierlichkeiten stattfinden sollen, damit etwas Geld zur Renovierung in die Kasse kommt, war mir sympathisch.

Der Großteil des Romans spielt sich auf diesen besagten Gutshof ab, wo sich Poppy um die Organisation der geplanten Hochzeiten bemüht. Statt Strand sind wir auf der Wiese oder am Bach, im Matsch vor einem Zelt oder im verstaubten Hinterzimmer. Das Rafe sehr schnell Poppys Herz höher schlagen lässt, sie sich ihre Gefühle nicht eingestehen will, ist ebenso klar, wie das ewige Hin und Her bis zum Happy End.

Zusätzlich erinnerte mich der Roman wirklich sehr an "Hinter dem Café das Meer" von der ebenfalls englischen Autorin Philippa Ashley, das von mir auch nur 2 Sterne bekommen hat. Einziger austauschbarer Punkt: statt dem Brautsalon ein Café.

Schreibstil:

Der Schreibstil ist flüssig, ziemlich dialoglastig und die Beschreibung der Örtlichkeiten bildhaft. Sehr gut vorstellen konnte ich mir die Kleidung (Brautkleid, Brautjungfern, Jungesellinnenabschied), doch die Beschreibung der Charaktere war umso oberflächlicher. Diese sind sehr stereotyp, unglaublich und machen auch keinerlei Entwicklung durch. Humor oder Romantik suchte ich vergebens.

Die Geschichte wird im Präsens und aus der Ich-Perspektive erzählt. Trotzdem konnten mich die Figuren nicht erreichen.

Zum kleinen Brautladen am Strand wird es noch Folgebücher geben, denn dies ist Band Eins einer Reihe rund um den Shop.

"Winter im kleinen Brautladen am Strand" erscheint im November 2018 und wird von mir definitiv nicht mehr gelesen werden.

Fazit:

Der Roman konnte mich leider gar nicht abholen, plätscherte dahin und war mir zu oberflächlich. Die Charaktere waren großteils unsympathisch und entwickelten sich nicht weiter. Romantik oder witzige Dialoge hat man vergebens gesucht. Ich werde die Fortsetzung nicht mehr lesen und kann hier auch keine Leseempfehlung abgeben.

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## Emer says

Hello female lead!

Are you just getting over a painful breakup?

Have you lost your self-confidence because of a guy?

Left the bright lights of the big city behind you?

Well step right up to our beautiful quiet Cornish seaside town where you can indulge in every clichéd chick-lit stereotype of your dreams!!!!!!

There are life long besties who will always be there for you, an understanding (part-time) boss (more of a friend or maternal character really....) which will lead to an "unexpected" career that will prove to be extremely profitable and as ever in small little country towns there are at least two hot single men who are willing to fight it out for the 'right' to become your *Mr Right*!!

Would you like cute guy number one? Mr Contemporary with *oh so perfect blue eyes*. His charisma could charm you all the way into next year.

Or perhaps you would prefer Mr Traditional? Beneath this scowling exterior lurks a cute little pussy cat and abs of steel!

.....you get the idea, right?

I mean it's chick lit!! And I, for one, love my cute and fluffy chick-lits!!

So this was very sweet even though it was incredibly predictable...my favourite part btw (view spoiler)

As I was saying, this was very pleasant and it could very easily have been a steady three star rating if not for the fact that it did drag somewhat because the inevitability of the ending was just so glaringly obvious and therefore, many of the book's chapters felt unnecessary and became quite tiresome. It was too long and poorly edited; the book could have been shortened by at least 20% which would have tightened up the storyline and given it a better "*flow*". And sadly the humour was a little bit lacking. In order to give a higher rating to chick-lits I need the *laugh-o-meter* to be ding-ding-dinging a little higher than it did with this one.

But I **did** enjoy it and will read the sequel; okay that's mostly because I have already purchased it but this book hasn't put me off continuing on the stories about the characters in this little wedding shop by the sea. All in all it was a perfectly charming little piece of escapist fluffiness! \*drifts off to my happy place\*

## **two and a half stars**

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### **Anja says**

The book is about Poppy, who lives in a tiny flat above her friend's wedding shop in Cornwall. After her boyfriend cheats on her that's where she finds a new home, and work. She bakes wedding cakes for the brides.

To save her other friend's wedding, she takes on another job: As a wedding planner on a farm, owned by grumpy farmer Rafe. Of course, being a wedding planner isn't as easy as it sounds, but can her new life help Poppy get over her heartbreak..?

I really liked the story and Poppy and her friends. Rafe was also quite nice, but somehow not my dream love interest. He was great and all, but there was still something missing. I don't know.

It's also a very fast read because the chapters are very short, which I liked very much. The atmosphere and the setting of the farm were very lovely. I don't have anything bad to say, really.

But I do have the feeling, that some things were just not really ... solved? Hard to explain, but there was, of course, another guy and his storyline just kind of vanished into thin air. Almost, at least. It did find an end or something, but that part could've been so much more. I totally missed some complications here, and basically in the whole book. I mean I don't want total drama, but a tiny bit would've been nice? Maybe? The obligatory obstacle near the end of the book was actually nothing at all. Still a nice book, though.

Oh, another thing I did not like: In the beginning of the story Poppy's hairstyle is a pixie cut. I hate pixie cuts. No one ever looks good with a pixie cut. Not even Emma Watson or Anne Hathaway. But that's not even the worst part: Poppy's pixie cut was bright red, then orange until it finally faded and became something like blonde again. Okay? I think I totally understand women who chop their hair off after a break-up or want to look different and everything. But a pixie cut? When you had nice, long, blonde hair before? Poppy said: 'I couldn't be that blonde person anymore.' Oh, get a grip for goodness sake! You don't have to be that harsh to your poor hair. I was over the moon when she could do a tiny pony-tail again. Hooray. Luckily I forgot the hairstyle of horror most of the time. ♥

So, my conclusion is: Very nice book and people and atmosphere and everything, but still something missing. I don't even know why, because it has everything I want from a chick-lit book.

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### **Jane Hunt says**

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So, are cupcakes, an unlikely wedding planner and a grumpy but gorgeous farmer, the perfect recipe for a romantic comedy? Definitely. I've eagerly anticipated reading this story and the reality far surpassed the expectation.

Poppy our cake maker, extraordinaire becomes a reluctant wedding planner at the insistence of her best friends. Her first encounter with Rafe, is messy, the second is disjointed and strangely confusing. As the months pass she learns there is more to her disinterested and often rude boss, than she first thought. Not just in terms of personality.

Told from Poppy's first person point of view, you quickly discover she is a delightful character. Loyal, hard working and determined to rebuild her shattered life after her despicable ex and the unexpected death of her mum. Poppy, Cate and Immie's long term friendship makes for lots of funny dialogue and amusing anecdotes.

Rafe is complex and has a heart of gold beneath his gruff exterior, the perfect romantic comedy hero. His love of slogan T-shirts makes for amusing reading, there is certainly a market for these.

There are lots of 'laugh out loud' scenes that had me crying with laughter. The setting, both at the farm and the wedding shop is full of vivid imagery. The scenes in Poppy's eyrie at the top of the wedding shop are so well described you can practically smell the baking cakes and taste the sweet icing.

Poppy and Rafe's relationship simmers in a believable way and has many romantic and comic moments that have you rooting for their happy ever after.

Funny, poignant and unashamedly romantic, this story is a summer treat you won't want to miss.

Jane Linfoot

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