



# A Bouquet of Love

*Janice Thompson*

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## **A Bouquet of Love** Janice Thompson

Cassia Pappas has found herself in a nearly impossible situation. She wants to spend her time immersed in her new job at a Galveston Island floral shop, arranging blooms and brightening occasions with her lovely creations. But her huge Greek family—especially her father—has other ideas. They've all relocated to Galveston to open up a new family restaurant location on the Strand—directly across the street from the Rossis' popular pizza place—and they want Cassia's full participation.

To make matters worse, as Cassia is trying to develop a strong professional relationship with Galveston's premier wedding coordinator, Bella Neeley, her own father is intent on stealing all of the Rossi family's faithful customers. Not exactly the best way to get into Bella's good graces!

Still, at least Alex, that hot delivery guy from the nursery, is always hanging around the flower shop . . .

Fan favorite Janice Thompson gives readers one more romp with Bella, Galveston, and the bustling wedding biz in the final installment of her popular series. Anyone who loves quirky families, loads of laughter, and tender romance will find themselves hooked.

## **A Bouquet of Love Details**

Date : Published August 19th 2014 by Fleming H. Revell Company (first published August 12th 2014)

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Author : Janice Thompson

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## From Reader Review A Bouquet of Love for online ebook

### Shannah Mauney says

I loved this story and recommend it to anyone who wants to read a fun, fast-paced love story with great principles mixed in. Read my full review on my blog.

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### Dawn says

Cassia Pappas loves flowers. She loves to work with them and create beautiful bouquets of color and to figure out what blooms would make a bride's day extra special. Yet when her father moves their large family from California to Galveston to open his Greek restaurant, Cassia finds herself stuck in the shop assisting with the making of gyros. When she is given the opportunity to work in the flower shop that Bella Neely sends her brides, Cassia is thrilled. Especially when it puts her in close contact with handsome delivery man Alex Rigas. The problem? Cassia's father doesn't want her to work there. And then there's the war he has declared on the Rossi family because they own the popular pizza place Parma John's. Will the Greek/Italian feud be the end of the friendships Cassia has begun with Bella and the rest of the Rossi clan? And will Cassia and Alex find a way to bridge the gaps and find their happily ever after?

Whenever I see a Janice Thompson book appear in an email of review requests, I know that I HAVE to request it. Because I know that I will be in for a delightful funny read. And I'm never disappointed. This book was no exception. It was a delightfully funny read. As well as being a fast read. It it was one I didn't have to think deeply about while reading and I could really just sit back and enjoy the story.

I loved the humor in the book. I really enjoyed catching up with Bella and the gang and getting to meet more of the Splendor characters. One thing I did find interesting was that though Cassia wanted to live her own life, she loved her father too much to completely disrespect him or his plans. I loved, though, how when he finally realized what he was doing to his family that he really did try to change.

I enjoyed Alex as well. I loved how he fit right into the craziness that was Cassia's family.

I found this to be a very enjoyable read and I look forward to the next book by Janice Thompson.

I received the Kindle version of this book for free from Revell Books via NetGalley for the purpose of reviewing. My thoughts and opinions are my own.

Recommended to fans of romantic comedies, chick lit, Janice Thompson

Rating - 4 stars

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### Emilee says

This is a fun, romantic comedy about a Greek family. This is the first book I've read by Janice Thompson and it will not be the last!

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## **Andrea says**

Good, funny read

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## **Claudia says**

A Bouquet of Love by Janice Thompson – A Book Review

This book might be for you if you enjoy reading a light romance. This book might be for you if the Hallmark Channel is your go to channel each evening. This book might be for you if you live in or love to vacation in Galveston. This book might be for you if the mere mention of the words gyro, tzatziki, or baklava make your mouth water profusely. This book might be for you if you grew up honoring your Italian or Greek heritage, or if you grew up in a big family of any heritage. This book might be for you if you are a Judy Garland fan. Finally this book might be for you if your life revolves around a family business.

Ms Thompson introduces each chapter with humorous, “You might be Greek if...” statements. The story itself focuses on the common ground among people and people groups rather than the attributes that set them apart. It is a story of two families, one Italian and one Greek, with competing restaurants, and with warring patriarchs who seek to provide for their large families. It is a story of the women of the families who build relationships and bridges. To quote one wise woman, Helena Pappas, “What ever happened to winning people over with love? With real relationships? This is what being a Christian is all about.”

It is also a story about recognizing and using our God given gifts and passions, and both encouraging and allowing others to do the same. This lesson is especially focused on parents as they prepare their fledglings to fly the nest rather than tethering them there. It’s about roots and wings.

With such serious themes, readers can be grateful to Ms Thompson for skillfully including humor reminiscent of the 2002 film My Big Fat Greek Wedding. Personally I found it to also be reminiscent of large Italian family gatherings I’ve attended, lots of love, lots of food, and lots of noise.

While I prefer romance to serve as a subplot within a mystery, historical or science fiction novel, I did enjoy this novel that relied heavily on the wedding theme of the series of which it is a part. I found it well written, amusing and entertaining, but just because of my own reading preferences, would not want a steady diet of this type of story.

I thank Revell Publishers and Christian Fiction Blog Alliance for providing A Bouquet of Love for my honest review. I did not receive any monetary compensation for a favorable review and the opinions expressed here are strictly my own.

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## **Bess says**

Okay, so I think you need to read: Weddings by Bella 1-3; then read Weddings by Design 1-4, then read Weddings by Bella #4. That is the timeline; they overlap.

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## **Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says**

3.5 stars.

{Official Content Review to Come.}}

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## **Carolyn says**

As seen on my blog:

Hey, Folks!

Do the woes of your week leave you in need of a light hearted chuckle? Janice Thompson's romantic comedy novels may be just the ticket to snap you out of your funk. I was given her latest, "A Bouquet of Love," as part of the "Revell Reads" review program. The publisher furnished me with this title in exchange for a post containing my up front opinion and nothing more. This book is the fourth outing in the "Weddings by Design" series.

In this installment, we meet Cassia Pappas, a young with a dream to use floral arrangements to enhance important events in people's lives. When she moves to Galveston with her large family, it looks like she might finally get a chance. Will her obligation to pitch in at her father's restaurant rob of her of the opportunity to pursue a position at a flower shop, taking with it her shot at true love? Can our heroine trust God to orchestrate a happily ever after for her like the ones she's glimpsed in Judy Garland films?

This piece is refreshing change from my usual fare. If you enjoy your heart pounding romance laced with a liberal dash of laughter, you should check this one out. While it has a fanciful feel, this tale contains a subtle foundation of substance seamlessly woven in. You will get a substantial dose of Christian principles, almost without realizing it. I found this story suitable for general audiences, but it will probably appeal most to women twelve years and over. "A Bouquet of Love" can certainly be seen as stand alone entertainment, but if you would like to start at the beginning, the series was released in the following order:

Picture Perfect

The Icing on the Cake

The Dream Dress

A Bouquet of Love

My rating is a hilarious five out of five stars, so feel free to treat yourself today. You can find this work and all of its companions at your favorite retail spot tomorrow, August 19th. I hope to be able to tell you more about this incredible storyline in the future. Until we meet again...

Happy Reading,

Carolyn

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## **Rachel Marie says**

Ah, Janice Thompson has done it again. I don't know what it is about this author, and this series, but it has completely won over my heart, and this latest installment did not disappoint. In fact, this may be one of my

favorites. Favorite main character, favorite family, favorite swoony love interest.

I've mentioned before, in my review of *The Dream Dress*, how my favorite part of this series and Janice Thompson's books are the characters, the family, and this one was definitely no different. Babbas and his antics had me cracking up. I will say, I wish there had been some more on the sibling side. I don't think we ever heard the little brother's name until finally at the end, he was always just the younger brother, and I was confused for a while on how many of them there actually was. But other than that, I loved it. I will say, I think I have a weakness for anything Greek, so this was destined to be a sure favorite.

Alex...sa-wooon. Did I mention I think he's my favorite love interest so far? Well, he is. I did have the same issue that I've had with the other books, on how it seemed too insta-lovey. I mean, it wasn't the annoying kind of insta-love (insta-lust), but it did seem to move really fast. But whatever. The romance did seem more developed and substantial than in others, though.

And of course, the culture. Loved it. I loved the everyday family interactions, the "battle" between Babbas and Uncle Laz had me cracking up, and of course our lovely Splendora Sisters were back in action. My favorite Rossis were back, as well as Scarlet, Hannah, Gabi and yes, even Guido the parrot. Even Brock and some characters from Thompson's other series, *Backstage Pass*, (which I haven't read so wasn't too concerned with) made an appearance.

So yes, this book was everything I have come to expect from this series and this author. It made me smile, laugh, swoon. But, as I guess this is the last in this series, I needed her to write another spin-off. I'm not ready to say goodbye to these characters!

*This review first appears on my link text*

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## **Kate (The Shelf Life) says**

I want to start off by saying that I'm a huge fan of *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*. It was fun, had a sweet romantic comedy, and was about family. What does this have to do with *A Bouquet of Love*? Well, I will tell you, if you LOVED *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* like I did, you will love *A Bouquet of Love* by Janice Thompson. Why you ask? It has the same component as the movie. A big, loud, Greek family that owns a restaurant, a sweet love story, with a dash of comedy mixed in.

There is more to story than that, of course. I was going in expecting the typical romantic story, but what I ended up reading was really more of a family trying to find their way. Older kids wanting to branch out, but also trying to honor their parents, but not knowing what that really meant, but still trying to be respectful to their parents wishes. But when situations make it hard to follow an order, it's where things get sticky.

Don't get me wrong, there is a sweet romance to this story. It was a refreshing one too. There was no angst between the couple when they finally got together, they meshed well and really allowed each other to shine in what they did best and the best thing, Alex and Cassia each shared a love for flowers, so they had a common ground between them that allowed their romance to blossom (no pun intended).

Cassia had to walk a fine line with her desires for herself. Because of that, she first comes off as a little wishy-washy, but as you get to know her and see things through her eyes, things become clear and you hope for her to achieve what she wants. The best part about Cassia, that she does her best to be honest about her

job and to be respectful to her demanding father. His demands were a little far fetched, so I think how Cassia handled things was pretty spot on to anyone who has been stuck in that kind of situation.

Thank you to the Revell Reads Blog Tour, I received a copy of this book for free in exchange for an honest review.

This review was originally posted @ <http://wordsfromabookaholic.blogspot....>

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## **Victor Gentile says**

Janice Thompson in her new book, “A Bouquet of Love” Book Four in the Weddings by Design series published by Revell returns us to Galveston Island and into the life of Cassia Pappas .

From the back cover: She didn’t expect to fall in love—but roses aren’t the only thing blooming on Galveston Island

Cassia Pappas has found herself in a nearly impossible situation. She wants to spend her time immersed in her new job at a Galveston Island floral shop, arranging blooms and brightening occasions with her lovely creations. But her boisterous Greek family—especially her father—has other ideas. They’ve all relocated to Galveston to open up a new family restaurant located on the Strand—directly across the street from iconic pizza place Parma John’s—and they want Cassia’s full participation.

To make matters worse, as Cassia is trying to develop a strong professional relationship with Galveston’s premier wedding coordinator, Bella Neeley, her own father is intent on stealing all of the Rossi family’s faithful customers. Not exactly the best way to get into this former Rossi’s good graces!

Still, at least Alex, that hot delivery guy from the nursery, is always hanging around the flower shop . . .

There is a feud going happening on Galveston Island. Forget the Hatfields and the McCoys, this time it is the Greeks and the Italians. Talk about a food fight The Pappas family have opened up a Greek Restaurant right across from Parma John’s with the intention of putting them out of business. The Pappas do not like anyone Rossi but it is difficult to live on Galveston Island and not find something or someone Rossi. On top of all of that Cassia just wants to be a florist. And there is even a romance. Welcome back to Galveston Island and a whole new set of characters to go along with Bella and her Italian family from the Weddings By Bella series. This book is all about embracing who you are and who God called you to be. All the characters are likable and Ms. Thompson has a way of bringing you into the story and making the characters lives very real. Have fun by looking at the chapter titles they are all either Judy Garland movies or song titles.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Revell Publishers. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission’s 16 CFR, Part 255: “Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising.”

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## **Sunflower says**

Set against the backdrop of Galveston, Texas, "A Bouquet of Love" is a refreshing contemporary romance novel filled with humor and a delightful getaway writing that draws in the reader, looking for a fun romance novel that isn't racy, takes you into the world of wedding planning (and who doesn't love to plan a wedding) and hijinks of a girl lost in love.

There are just times when you want to read a novel that isn't serious and helps get your mind off the everyday world, and though I haven't read the other books in the series, I really enjoyed reading "A Bouquet of Love".

This was a big change in the usual type of books that I read and both the contemporary setting, the humor and mix in with talk of food (who doesn't love that), I really found the book to be a fresh change in pace.

The characters were funny and likable and toward the end of the book, it was easy to not only form an attachment to the cast of characters but get swept up in the story line.

Biggest thing is that the book did what it needed to do...it was fun. There were parts of the book, I found myself chuckling as if hearing a story being retold by an old friend.

The perspective, that the book was written from, was refreshing, written from a first person perspective, it really drew me in and the wackiness of what the main character, Bella, goes through, had me wanting to go back and read the rest of the series that I hadn't known, till now, existed.

Don't think that you need to...."A Bouquet of Love" felt like a book that you can read as a stand alone, but with enough enticement to go..."Oh, there's more!" and have you wanting to go back and find the rest of the books to read.

Refreshing, tender, fun and wacky, this was an absolute joy to read and review.

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## **Melissa says**

Another fabulous read from Janice! In this book we meet Casia Pappas and the rest of her zany Greek family. This was a fun read with all the characters we've grown to love from the Rossi family to Brock Benson. When the Pappas family opens their Greek food restaurant across the street from Parma John's you know a feud is bound to start between the Italians and the Greeks. What you don't expect is the hilarity as some of the families unite in friendship and conspire to end the feud between Uncle Laz and Babbas (Casia's father). Loved this book!

I received a complimentary copy of this book to review. I was asked to give my honest opinion of the book - which I have done.



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## **Stormi (BMReviewsohmy) says**

First thoughts: I am a huge Janice Thompson fan and she did not disappoint. This one was so much fun!

A Bouquet of Love is part of the Wedding's by Design series which is a spin off of Wedding's by Bella series and Backstage Pass series and I do suggest that you start from the beginning even though you could read this one by itself. You get so much more out of it if you already know all the characters. Trust me they are a blast and you will love everyone of them!

So this one reminds a little of the Hatfield's and McCoy's but not quite as rough, but they are definitely a feuding. It is the Greeks vs. the Italian. Cassia Pappas and her family are new to Galveston Texas. They have come to open a Gyro restaurant called Super Gyros and it is right across the street from Parma Johns an Italian eater. Let the war begin!

Cassia's father has forbid her or any other family member from talking to the enemy. They must stay away from the Rossi's because they must just be evil, they are Italians. Her father has this idea of how his restaurant is going to be so much better that they will take all of Parma Johns customers.

Uncle Laz, whom you would know from any of the other books is the owner of Parma Johns and he has also forbidden his family from having anything to do with the Pappas.

The only problem with this is that the Rossi's are everywhere. Bella owns Club Wed, Marcella owns the flower shop, Scarlett owns the Bakery and if they are not a Rossi, they are married to a Rossi or friends with a Rossi. They are super friendly and Cassia loves flowers that is what she wants to do not make Gyros. She gets a job at the flower shop before she realizes that it's ran by a Rossi, now what is she suppose to do? Her brother hangs out at the baseball field and meets a real nice coach and starts helping him out before he finds out, he is a Rossi. Eva finds a friend in the girl that cuts hair at the salon and finds out she is a Rossi, even their mom makes friend with someone before realizing she is a Rossi. So now we have a lot of secret friends going on here because no one wants to let Babbas know that they are talking to the enemy. They are all really sweet down home people, but you just can't tell a stubborn Greek man that. To him and his restaurant they are the enemy. It makes for a lot of laughs.

Meanwhile, Cassia meets Alex whose family supplies the flower shop with their flowers and they hit it off right away. Who wouldn't love a Greek cowboy! I want one! His family is just as rambunctious as her family, so it was easy for them to get along. She has found the man of her dreams and he is Greek and loves flowers. Now if she can find away to end the feud between two families before it breaks up the family.

I loved Cassia she was so much fun to read about. She has this large Greek family and her father is so stubborn and his superhero costume to promote Super Gyros made me laugh. I don't know if I could survive in a family like that as I only have one older brother. Cassia wants to do as her father wants her too and she really did try and stay away from the Rossi's it's just that God has other plans.

Alex, he was a sweetheart and a Greek Adonis disguised as a cowboy. He was such the southern gentleman and he even loved his big loud family even when they get all embarrassing. His family is just as fun as the Rossi's and Pappas and most of them have been in previous books. Actually I think most of the secondary characters have been in previous books and it was so much fun to be with them all again. When you really

love a series even if it's split up into different series its fun to come back home to characters you have grown to love.

I so enjoyed this book as it just made me laugh and smile and sometimes after reading some books that can bog you down it's real nice to just relax in a sweet romance with a lot of humor. I would recommend this to anyone who loves contemporary romances, and even though it's a Christian romance, it doesn't preach or anything it's just a real down home sweet romance.

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## **Sandra says**

In Janice Thompson's fourth novel in the Weddings by Design series, *A Bouquet of Love*, we meet Cassia Pappas. Poor Cassia has a problem. She calls him Babbas, and he's her father.

Niko Pappas uproots the family from Santa Cruz, California, and drops them onto the hot and humid island of Galveston, Texas. There, they are expected to work like fiends to make his sandwich shop, Super-Gyros, into the most popular eating spot on the island. Unfortunately, the Italian restaurant across the street interferes with his plans, so he goes to war with the Rossi clan, prominent in the previous books.

All Cassia wants is to return to California, open a flower shop, and get out from under her father's thumb. Then, along comes a gorgeous, half-Greek "cowboy," nurseryman (as in flowers) who may succeed in changing her mind about moving. There's no changing her mind about becoming free of her father's dominance---if she finds the courage to stand up to him. Ah, will Nikos suffer a family coup?

Written in first person, Ms. Thompson's novel is a delightful tale of what can happen when pride and competition rule someone's life. They generate tyrants who are unpleasant to live with---like Cassia's father. It also addresses the consequences that arise when people fail to stand up for themselves. God did not create us to be doormats. As Cassia says, "But the idea of doing what he tells me instead of what I want is eating me alive."

I found the romance in this book to be a little stronger than in the previous one, *The Dream Dress*. Like before, the chapters are headed with appealing quotes. These generally begin with "You might be Greek if ...," such as, You might be Greek if you think the intercom in Walmart is a family walkie-talkie.

This story is less about romance than family matters. Cassia's "voice" is engaging and her predicament something we can all relate to at one time or another.

Don't let the idea of Niko's bullying turn you off. I mean, how can you dislike a guy who advertises his business in a homemade superhero costume?

If you like romantic stories told in a lighthearted fashion with refreshing, sometimes off-the-wall, characters (like Niko), I believe you'll enjoy *A Bouquet of Love*.

Disclosure of Material Connection: This book came to me free from the publisher, Revell, with the hope that I would mention it on this blog. There was no requirement for me to write a positive review and the opinions I have expressed above are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's

