



## **Wedding Bells at the Dog & Duck: The perfect springtime romantic read (Dog and Duck)**

*Jill Steeples*

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Ellie Browne is looking forward, with her partner Max, to hosting Christmas Day lunch at The Dog & Duck, but heavily pregnant now and with a snowstorm brewing outside, it seems that things might not go quite to plan.

After the dramatic events of the holiday season, Ellie settles into her new life at Max's country mansion Braithwaite Manor, juggling work and family as best she can. When she's asked to help organise a summer wedding for one of her best friends it's only natural that her mind turns to her own, non-existent, wedding plans!

With Max decidedly lukewarm on the whole subject and other family complications threatening to disrupt life further, Ellie fears there'll never be wedding bells at the Dog & Duck after all.

## **Wedding Bells at the Dog & Duck: The perfect springtime romantic read (Dog and Duck) Details**

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## **From Reader Review Wedding Bells at the Dog & Duck: The perfect springtime romantic read (Dog and Duck) for online ebook**

### **Linn Halton says**

I loved taking another trip back to the Dog & Duck as Ellie and Max's story continues. I felt like one of the villagers and it was a fun journey with lots of unexpected moments. Without giving away any spoilers I have to say it has a Christmas to beat all Christmases and we get to meet Flora for the first time. She puts in a brief, but heart-melting appearance and it will leave a HUGE smile on your face! I can't wait for the next book in this series and a trip back to pick up with some 'old friends' and to see where Jill Steeples takes them next. Fun, lively, full of wonderful characters and the perfect cosy-up read!

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### **Neil says**

I received a free copy via Netgalley in exchange for a honest review.

I just could not engage with the characters and the story was far too slow really struggling to hold my interest.

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### **Audrey says**

This book gives me the heartwarming, cosy feeling throughout the whole story. Set around Christmastide, the vividly written description of the area around the Dog & Duck by the author had compelled me in. The whole plot focuses on family relations, romance and friendship around the village of Little Leyton as Ellie navigated her life and help organizing one of her best friend's summer wedding.

As I followed Ellie's life, I can see how much loved Ellie is. She is that compassionate, caring character that you cannot help but love. And Max the headstrong property developer and her boyfriend has been proposing her for many times knows this and despite her refusal many times, truly love her. Like Ellie, Max is also that one male character with redeeming qualities you cannot help but cheer for. They had been in a relationship for a long time and their chemistry still sizzling. But, Ellie had been insecure and afraid that his feelings for her would not last long. While I understood Ellie's feelings, at some point I feel so frustrated.

The friendship and family relationship was written realistically as like those whose living in a comfortable small town where anyone knows each other. It reminded me of my hometown. The act of kindness can be seen when Ellie and Max caring for their old family friend and one of the pub's oldest customers. I do not have any negative things to say about this book, I just confused because there was a mention of burglary in this book yet it was not mentioned anymore. Given that the village was peaceful, so further notes about this burglary alarmed me and I worried over it.

In my opinion, the author's style for this book is of great quality for she not only able to perfectly describe the homey feeling of Little Leyton but also able to make me basked in the lovable romance, friendship and

family love. And despite the little notes about the burglary which is a small thing to note, I like Jill Steeples's writing style and I look forward to read more of her works.

This book scored **4 out 5 stars** for my reading satisfaction. It is a worthy and recommended reading for those who love clean romance with many lessons to learn from.

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### **Janette says**

I have read the previous books in this series and was looking forward to continuing Max and Ellie's story at the Dog & Duck. I wasn't disappointed and read this in a day - I couldn't put it down. So easy to read, the story flowed beautifully.

A feel-good story, heartwarming with lovely characters including adorable dogs. This book has it all - romance, family, relationships, secrets and a wedding. Lovely location, I look forward to returning to the Dog & Duck for the next instalment.

Thank you to NetGalley and the publisher for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Donna Maguire says**

[https://donnasbookblog.wordpress.com/...](https://donnasbookblog.wordpress.com/)

I was really looking forward to reading this one after reading some of the author's other books but I sadly didn't enjoy it as much as I expected. Don't get me wrong it was still a good story but I have only given it 3.5 stars rounded up to 4 stars for Goodreads and Amazon.

Unfortunately I found it a tad predictable in places and at times a little repetitive. I also thought that the book was set at too slow a pace (that could well be as I am used to more fast paced reads and they are what I favour) but it isn't all negative and some people will love it and 3.5 stars isn't a bad rating from me either - I enjoyed the ending, I liked the characters, they are very personable and the cover is just perfect for the book!

I do think that to get the most out of the book you probably need to read the rest in the series.

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### **Sally Coles says**

Ellie now heavily pregnant is happily running the Dog and Duck and looking forward to a quiet Christmas with Max..... but obviously fate has other plans for her when the baby decides to come in the middle of a snow storm! Life is suddenly very busy running the pub, looking after a new born baby and moving in with Max in his mansion and to top it all her best friend Polly is getting married and wants Ellie to host it at the pub..... but will that be the only wedding there or will Ellie and Max eventually tie the knot themselves?

Great to be back with all the characters from the first two books and catch up on their lives,,, I love Ellie she is such a great character and the books are so easy to read and lose yourself in

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## **Mandy says**

Funny and heart-warming continuation of Max and Ellie's story at the Dog and Duck.

With the imminent arrival of their first child Max wants to get married but for reasons of her own, Ellie does not. When assigned the role of wedding planner for her best friend, Ellie finds herself surrounded by all things romance and soon feels the bug, however Max seems to have gone right off the idea.

Ellie and Max are such a wonderful couple. They are not massively into personal displays of affection and even moments of jealousy are soon brushed aside. They are definitely a couple who will stay the distance, even if the bells are not ringing for them this time.

A feel-good story full of laughs, romance and caring with a few surprises along the way. This book is just what you need when the sun is shining on a chilly Spring day.

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## **Melanie Farmer says**

Firstly I have to admit that I have not read Winter at the Dog and Duck or Summer at the Dog and Duck. If I am entirely honest I think this was a mistake. Although there are explanations to the many references to previous events, I feel like I really should have read both of those books in the Dog and Duck series before I started on this one. It's not a deal breaker, but I think it would have made my reading experience a little better.

However, all that said, do not be put off if you haven't read the rest of the series! It is just my personal opinion that I should have read them, and I fully expect to go back and read them in the future.

So, onto the story.

Ellie is the very pregnant landlady of the Dog and Duck. Along with her partner Max, she is looking forward to a relaxing but fun Christmas and New Year before their new arrival joins them in January. With the onset of heavy snow, a mysterious visitor to the village and an unexpected delivery, Christmas does not happen in the way she expects!

This novel is very much based around family and loved ones. Ellie is someone that wants to please her friends and family, and make them feel loved which is why she jumps at the chance to arrange her best friend Polly's wedding. It does though highlight her own lack of wedding, despite her and Max now having a beautiful son.

This story is full of love and relationships, with Max and Ellie, George and Polly and Ellie's parents to name just a few. It explores long term relationships, new relationships, broken relationships and family relationships. I enjoyed reading about them all, and found all of the supporting characters to be believable and likeable.

At times however I found Ellie frustrating - she clearly adores Max and he adores her yet following events

early on in the book (I don't want to give them away, sorry!), she seems to spend the majority of the book confused as to why he won't propose to her or agree to marry her! Personally I found this a little irritating but having had children myself I can fully appreciate that having a baby can often make you a little irrational (us Mums would obviously never admit to this, but it's regularly true in those first few months!) which would explain where she is coming from.

All in all this is an enjoyable book, and a pleasant way to while away a few hours on a rainy day!

Thanks to Netgalley and Aria for providing me with a copy of this novel in exchange for my honest review.

Check out my blog <https://chapterandcake.wordpress.com> for more of my reviews!

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### **Dash fan says**

5? SO Glad to be back! A Charming Read!

WEDDING BELLS AT THE DOG & DUCK is the third book in the series but I highly recommend you reading at least the second book to catch up on all the gossip and news.

I was so glad to be back at the Dog and Duck and what better way to open up the story than Christmas day. Ellie the landlady of the Dog and Duck is heavily pregnant and Max her partner is running about giving everyone a Christmas to remember!

Wow what a day to remember.... A fight, a mystery stranger, snow, ohh and a baby born in a barn.

We welcome the newest member to little Leyton.... Noel.

Poppy (is Ellies best friend) and George are getting married and ask Ellie if she will organise the reception at the Dog and Duck.

I am not going to say any more as I really don't want to give anything away.

I adore the character in this story. They all feel like good friends I know them so well.

Jill has created life long friends in her characters. Not to mention the adorable dogs. Digby is so faithful and looks after Ellie so well it melts my heart.

I loved Ellie and Max. Max adores Ellie. If only she would say Yes to his never ending proposals. He thinks now with their perfect family and gorgeous Braithwaite Mansion she would say Yes! I was screaming at the Book for her to say yes!

Ellie has a big heart, and now she has baby Noel and her parents to worry about. She is strong but I was worried cracks might be beginning to show!

WEDDING BELLS AT THE DOG & DUCK is a beautiful heartwarming, poignant read that will melt your heart. With Romance, drama, secrets, relationships, family, friendship, a wedding, community spirit, a gorgeous location, memorable characters you will grow to love.

I hope this isn't the end of the Dog and Duck as I have fallen in love with little Leyton and all the wonderful

characters.

Thank you to Aria for this copy which I reviewed honestly and voluntarily.

My Review is also on my blog website:

<https://dashfan81.blogspot.com/2018/0...>

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### **Jane Hunt says**

'Wedding Bells at the Dog and Duck', is the third book in this series and the first one I've read. It reads perfectly well as a standalone novel but having finished it I enjoyed it so much I want to read the first two in the series to discover Ellie and Max's early love story.

Romance and humour fill the pages of this gentle love story, which depicts English village life centring around the country pub and its charismatic landlady Ellie Browne and her sexy, partner Max Golding. Romantically involved they are about to have their first child and Max wants to marry Ellie, but she is holding back.

It's Christmas, and most of the villagers are having Christmas dinner at the pub, which leads to one or two surprises for Ellie and Max. There is a wealth of carefully crafted characters who bring the pub and village to life, they all have their own stories, and these subplots continue throughout the book adding interest and realism.

Who is the mysterious character knocking on the pub door on Christmas day, I did guess, but it doesn't matter because it adds an element of mystery to a story about family, friendship and making the most of what life gives you.

The Dog and Duck is the quintessential village pub, a focal point for village life and Max is the modern day squire breathing life into the village and ensuring all are taken care of. If you fancy a slice of English village life with lots of laughs, a few tears and lashings of romance read on...

I received a copy of this book from Aria via NetGalley in return for an honest review.

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### **Deanne Patterson says**

This is the third book in the Duck and Dog series. I absolutely LOVED it! It was so much fun to catch up with the characters from the past 2 books and see how they had gotten on in their loves. It was like sharing a cuppa and catching up with old friends. Full of laughs, friendship and family and oh yes a few rambunctious fun loving dogs. The wedding descriptions were divine. When Ellie Browne, landlady of The Dog & Duck helps her friend plan her wedding her thoughts turn to planning her own wedding, but wait there is no wedding upcoming as she hasn't accepted her boyfriends' proposal. Will all the fun Summer wedding plans change her mind? Wonderfully fun book to read!

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I was given a complimentary copy of this book from Aria through NetGalley. All opinions are entirely mine.

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### **Suze Lavender says**

Ellie is heavily pregnant. She and Max are happy together and they are looking forward to fun and cosy

holidays with friends and family in their beloved Dog & Duck. The baby is supposed to come in the new year, but while a snowstorm is raging outside Ellie's waters break. Ellie is delighted with her little one. She and Max have moved in together and while taking care of their baby they also each continue with their busy lives. Ellie is still the landlady of the Dog & Duck and together with being a mother this is keeping her on her toes.

When Ellie's best friend announces she's planning to get married Ellie is over the moon, as it means she'll be able to organize a wedding in her precious Dog & Duck. However, making arrangements for someone else inevitably leads to a reassessment of her own situation. Ellie and Max aren't married, but maybe they should be engaged as well? So far agreeing to become husband and wife hasn't gone too well. Does the usual turmoil in their everyday lives prevent them from ever getting to that stage? Will love triumph at the Dog & Duck?

Wedding Bells at the Dog & Duck is another wonderful Dog and Duck story. I love Ellie. She's strong, smart, capable and levelheaded. There isn't a challenge she backs away from and her kindness knows no bounds. Ellie cares about people and she's always there for anyone who needs her, which makes the Dog and Duck books absolutely heartwarming. She and Max have amazing chemistry, but spending time together proves to be difficult with a little one, numerous house guests and plenty of problems to solve. I was curious to find out how they would tackle that and this kept me glued to the pages.

Jill Steeples writing has a nice fast pace and a great easy flow. I love the feelgood factor of her stories. They always manage to put a big smile on my face. I especially like the way she writes about friendship, family and community. Her stories are all about the interaction between people and she's incredibly skilled at describing their relationships. The dialogue is matter-of-fact, there's plenty of entertainment and charm and every story has many unexpected twists and turns. I love reading about weddings and Wedding Bells at the Dog & Duck is a fantastic story about this beautiful topic. I really enjoyed this gorgeous story and highly recommend the Dog and Duck series.

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### **Laura says**

This book was SUCH slow going. I gave it until 50%, at which point I was so bored of it that I just couldn't read any more. The plot offered nothing of excitement or particular enjoyment, the characters were all fairly dull, and nothing about it gripped me. I keep waiting for something exciting to happen, but at halfway through I feel I've read enough.

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### **Stephanie Dagg says**

This book makes for perfect reading at this meteorologically challenged time of year as it takes us from the cold, snowbound days of Christmas into joyous, warm springtime and then summer. Ellie Browne, landlady of the Dog and Duck, and her partner Max, owner of the country mansion Braithwaite Manor, are our central characters. There's great excitement at the beginning of the book, when their baby Noel makes his precipitous entrance into the world, but the action keeps going as life is busy for Ellie and there's also Polly's wedding coming up. Polly is Ellie's best friend so she wants to put on a really good show. However, deep down there's another wedding she'd rather be planning for, but she's the one who keeps throwing the spanner into the works where that one's concerned.

There's a fascinating cast of characters in the book. We get to meet Ellie's parents, now back from Dubai, and they add some drama of their own to proceedings. Max's family have a few surprises of their own too. As well as the feel-goodness of the story, the author's writing raises your spirits as it's warm and inviting. Jill Steeples tells her romantic comedy in a friendly, flowing fashion. There's humour, drama, tension, heartache and joy, all the compelling ingredients we need to keep us hooked to the very end. This is the last in the Dog and Duck trilogy, and it's been a pleasure to read them all.

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## Gaele says

3.5 stars, Rounded.

It's Christmastime in Little Leyton, but there's far more happening. Ellie and Max will soon be expecting their first child, there is a massive snowstorm (not unlike this past weekend) and since the Dog & Duck is the perfect gathering place, this is where Ellie has gathered her friends for Christmas dinner. But an unexpected stranded tourist, a baby that has decided he wants to meet Santa and Polly's newly minted engagement – there is plenty to celebrate. Well, that is until Max makes a huge effort to propose and Ellie, being a little slow on the uptake and a bit of a scardey-cat when faced with a choice, refuses. Almost instantly she realizes her mistake, but with the ups and downs after Noel's birth, her worry about her parents, the roller-coaster erratic behavior from Katy, Max's half sister, and the second-guessing that comes with a new baby, particularly a colicky one – and you have a story that is ripe with overthinking, drama, secrets and everyone (yes **EVERYONE** for this is Little Leyton) qualified to give well-intentioned advice.

From feeling like you are dropped into the center of the village, most of the story is focused on Ellie and her struggles: and triumphs, and she's a person who can quickly push her own concerns to the side to focus on others, and she's got plenty to focus on here. From arranging her best friend Polly's hen night and wedding, to worrying about her parents' sudden decision to leave Dubai and move back, to Katy's obvious struggles and the apparent breakdown of Josie and Ethan's marriage, she's got plenty to sidetrack her as she stealthily ignores her own reasons for declining Max's proposal. And when you add in the fact that she and Max are building a family, from inviting the elderly Arthur to stay with them, and accepting Katy's news (and shock of it) with support, love and plenty of patience: there's plenty happening to move the plot along.

Granted, this is not a story that you can read easily without having read earlier books in the series, although you'll enjoy it more if you have: and the pacing is a bit uneven: but these are characters that feel real and plausible. They are flawed and prone to impulsive moments that always lead to a rethink, often overly involved in one another's lives while they ignore what's happening at home, but the love and caring is there and make this village a wonderful place to visit.

I received an eArc copy of the title from the publisher via NetGalley for purpose of honest review. I was not compensated for this review: all conclusions are my own responsibility.

Review first appeared at I am, Indeed

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