



Icing on the Cake

Laura Castoro

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When Liz Talbot's husband left her for a woman half her age, Liz put all her passions into her bakery. The problem is that fad diets and fitness crazes are ruining sales and she's barely staying afloat. Liz's luck seems to be changing when her ex dies without changing his will, leaving her the main beneficiary. Unfortunately one of the things she inherits is the advertising agency she left behind to pursue her dream of baking. Her partner? The newly widowed husband stealer—Brandi, with a heart over the *i*. As the new co-owner of Talbot Advertising, in the toilet since the death of her ex (that's right, she's now the proprietor of two failing businesses), Liz is more determined than ever to break out and make a name for herself as an artisan baker extraordinaire, providing her products can catch the eye of the Nabisco Food scout who is as elusive as he is mysterious.

Icing on the Cake Details

Date : Published January 1st 2007 by Mira

ISBN : 9780778324133

Author : Laura Castoro

Format : Paperback 384 pages

Genre : Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Romance, Fiction, Adult Fiction

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From Reader Review Icing on the Cake for online ebook

Lanette says

First of all, it irritated me that there's a picture of a gorgeous cake on the cover... when the bakery in question specialized in Artisan Breads and didn't make cakes!!!

I would have given this 3 stars, but the moral police made me knock it down a notch for the unnecessary sex. Everyone in the book is boinking someone (and not one of them are married) It was hard for me to relate to or sympathize with any of the characters. Water seeks its own level. A beach read, but nothing you can have great discussions over at book club!

Michelle says

I know that this is supposed to be just a dumb fluff book, but I found it oddly compelling. I thought that Laura Castoro's writing was interesting and fun. I thought the story was a page turner and I really did want to know what happened. Usually, I find these books just good beach reads, but for what ever reason, it was exactly what I needed.

Mimi says

This is my second Laura Castoro book and I will look for more. She is an author from Arkansas who my Mom met at writer conference so I got interested. So glad I did! Liz is a wonderful character: middle aged divorcee whose husband is married to a younger woman named Brandi, whom Liz refers to as HER. Liz owns a bakery left to her by her grandparents and has a passion for baking. It is so refreshing to hear about someone doing what they truly love to do! The husband dies without making a new will for the new wife so the old and the new Mrs. Talbots must work together to share the estate. Liz's two daughters are unconventional and overly conventional by turns, her mother is a glamour queen, and her life is not going the way she'd like, until she decides to take things in hand. Good read!

Nichole says

For starters, this book was nothing like I expected it to be. That being said, I liked it. The story follows the life of a woman who is trying to balance all aspects of her life: children, work, love, interests, friends, and so much more (aren't we all?). Her passion is baking (bread, not cake as the title (and cover art) implies, but her business is struggling. How does she revive her bakery while dealing with current tragedy in her life? Well, read the book and find out.

What I love the most about this story comes toward the end...actually, I think it is right at the end. Liz, our juggling heroine, is confronted by a question, "Why don't you take what you are good at and apply it to what you love?" This got me thinking about the things at which I am good and the things at which I love to do...why are they different? Why can't I be really good at the things I like as well as love those things at

which I am really good? By day, I am a pencil-pushing straight-shooter, but after the “bell rings,” I am more laid back and creative. Why is that? What can’t the two find some way to blend? I suppose I don’t need/want an answer; I’m just throwing the idea out “there.”

Sorry, I digress. The story was very compelling and a quick read. I enjoyed unwinding to it after a long day, evening, and sometimes night.

Sarah says

This novel was a great story of coming back to life after a divorce. Liz loves her No-Bagel Emporium that her grandparents left her. She revels in the effects bread can have on a person. But, business is bad... She hasn't been able to increase her business and money has been tight since the divorce. Everything changes for Liz after her ex-husband dies unexpectedly. Her life is turned upside down after she has to go into business with the woman who stole her husband.

Laura Castoro's writing was interesting and fun. It was great to go along with Liz on her journey. The book was very compelling and showed how one can come back from life-changing events. I would recommend reading it to someone who wants to laugh and get carried away in this up-beat story.

A'ndrea Wilson says

Sometimes all a woman needs is confidence, creativity, and a little bit of karma. In Laura Castoro's *Icing on the Cake*, Baker

Extraordinaire, Liz Talbot gets a cup of all three!

Icing on the Cake explores the life of a divorced, middle aged woman who owns a struggling bakery shop. In the midst of Liz's entrepreneurial woes, her ex-husband dies, forgetting to change his will and leaving all of his possessions to her – instead of the flaky, superficial, twenty-something that he left her for, the other Mrs. Talbot. Liz must now fight to keep her business alive while co-managing her husband's advertising company and battling both in-and-out of court with her sworn rival, the second wife. To add to the mayhem, a sexy man who could ignite both her business and her love life enters the picture, turning Liz's life officially upside-down.

I absolutely loved this book. It was very well written, using a significant amount of research on the baking/bread industry to make the story authentic and informative. The characters were colorful and lively, each adding their own substantial contribution to the developing storyline. The book was witty and memorable, reminding us that what goes around, comes right back around. Bravo to Castoro for another excellent read.

Bree says

It was fun and light but very different from most of the Chick Lit I read. Liz was not a 20/30's PR girl trying to find a husband. However she did want to have some hot anonymous sex, enough money not to worry, and just keep doing the thing she loved to do: make delicious bread. I liked the ending, hated the protagonist appropriately and found myself chuckling at the right parts. Very good read.

Sarah says

This book has nothing to do with cake, but it was still a fun read. The author is from Arkansas, so I thought I'd give it a try. It's a light read about a woman who suddenly has to run an ad agency with her ex-husband's widow because he never changed his will. Along the way, she manages to save her bakery, find herself again, and fall in love. Fairly typical.

Catherine says

This was a cute book, but it has absolutely nothing to do with cake. The main character has a bakery, but she does artisan breads. The title is accurate, because she's looking for the "icing on the cake" of her life, and she says this in the story. But, the cover is not at all reflective of the story. However, it did its job, because I picked up the book!

Kristy says

I just couldn't get into it.

Kristal says

Liz is a mid-forty divorcee who has found her true love-baking bread. Like chocolate-cherry pumpernickel, pinon-nut queso blanco con mango whole wheat, schiacciata con Umbria, pomegranate-seed loaf, just to name a few. But her ex-husband has gone and forgotten to change his will once he re-married, which wouldn't be a problem, if he hadn't died! Now Liz finds herself fighting Brandi, that's Brandi with a tm over the i, for the rights to the advertising agency and the millions of dollars it would bring, which Liz could desperately use for her bread shop. But all of that pales when she does the unexpected and sits with a handsome man at the bar one night. And it's a night neither one will forget, especially once she realizes that she has slept with the bread representative for Nabisco and has possibly jeopardized her one chance to get her wonderful breads the recognition they deserve!

Amy says

I liked this overall but it did seem to drag in places. I enjoyed reading a chick lit / romance book where the main character is a bit older, I think Liz was in her mid to late 40s. It was nice to see a different perspective ie having adult kids, being divorced, etc.

Also, the picture on the cover is weird and misleading. The main character bakes bread and does nothing with cakes! I kept thinking she was going to start baking cakes and the cover would eventually make sense but not so!

Overall, a cute, quick beach read.

Traci says

Okay...I got this book by accident...I should have paid closer attention to the authors name but the title was the same as a book that I noticed a friend had marked to read and so I checked it out and was exposed to the Stereotypical romance novel and after reading too much of it...I put it down and said...never ever again am I'm reading this sort of novel and I was going to put that I hated the book my friend had marked and then realized my own critical mistake...So note to self...always...always check title and authors name because I don't like my little mind being exposed to things it just shouldn't be!!! Wouldn't recommend this book to anyone who likes to keep an innocence about them...don't even bother with the overly sexy romance novels!!! Never finished the book!

Knotty says

First of all, I was very excited the day I borrowed this book from the library. I have been reading somewhat "heavy" books of late, and I was in the mood for something light and fluffy. I have a penchant for picking books by their cute covers. Well, I have been duped before, and I've been duped AGAIN!

On the cover is a luscious, beautiful, amazing cake. The title talks about cakes. Ok, I thought this was a no-brainer. This book was SOOO AWFUL and COMPLETELY NOT POSSIBLE. PLUS NO CAKES.

Here's the rundown. The main character, Liz, is a divorced mother of teenage twins who owns a bakery. Her ex-husband is married to a dingbat woman who owns a tanning business. This Liz woman picks up a hot man at a hotel bar during a wedding, and OH he just happens to be a Nabisco food scout! Boom, let's have tantric sex! Then the ex-husband dies, and Liz is sole inheritor of his will- oh and he owns a \$13 million dollar advertising company! Sure, that happens! Then Liz and the ex-wife dingbat have to share ownership of this advertising agency. Oh, and then Liz gets proposed to from a guy she barely knows. Oh, and then later Liz's mom is accused of seducing one of the daughter's boyfriends. Oh and the dingbat ends up at a total off off off Broadway play with the Nabisco man where the main character and her whole family are. I know I'm skipping plenty, but COME ON.

Yeah, does this look far fetched? BECAUSE IT IS. I have had a coincidental life, but this is just ridiculous. This was terribly written, unhinged, and the flow was wretched.

Kimberly Ann says

Chick-Lit:

Light & entertaining... some parts even interesting....

I finished it, but I skimmed a whole lot of it.....

Liz is Ted's ex-wife. Brandi (♥ dotted i) is his widow: Ted screw's them all by leaving EVERYTHING, including the PR firm that Liz made successful to Liz...

Catch? Liz has to work w/ Brandi, who of course uses sex to get almost everything she wants....

This interferes w/ Liz's passion her bakery (There is No Cake in her bakery...so where the hell the title came from I have no clue). She bakes breads to die for, but she & the bakery are in a slump....

Ted's stupidity turns out to be exactly what Liz needs to get her passion stoked up again & her bakery back to where she wants it to be

Yes, of course there is romance, but that is well written in & not the main point, but a solid pushing forward point.

It is down 1 ★ because I had to skim so much of the beginning fluff....
