



## Beefcake & Cupcakes

*Judi Fennell*

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Word Count: 72,000

Ingredients:

Lara Cavallo, a baker who's just starting out after a divorce

Gage Tomlinson, a stripper who's been around the block and needs money for his nephew's surgery

Cara and Bryan, two best friends who mean well

And Jeff, the ex husband who doesn't

Mix them all together at the social event of the season and you get one sexy batch of dancing cupcakes!

## **Beefcake & Cupcakes Details**

Date : Published August 13th 2012 by Mergenie Books

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Author : Judi Fennell

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## From Reader Review Beefcake & Cupcakes for online ebook

### Sia McKye says

***Sexy, sassy, fun and hot enough to melt buttercream frosting!***

Being an exotic dancer is the perfect venue to find hot sex partners. If you're looking to build a relationship, having a hot body with sexy moves, and droves of drooling women, tends to be a negative in the relationship department. For general contractor, Gage Tomlinson, Beefcake Inc, is a side business and a means to an end—raising enough money to pay for the extensive surgeries needed for his six-year-old nephew. Gage isn't looking for romance or a relationship at all. He works two jobs and doesn't have time for it. And then he meets the sexy Italian baker, Lara and suddenly he's reconsidering.

Lara Cavallo is over good-looking men who can't commit to one woman. Her ex made a laughing stock of her with his women. She's perfectly content to put all her energies into building Cups & Cakes (with her cousin who's a hoot). But her ex's denouncing her is blah vanilla in bed and too many shots of liquor lead her to be bold and prove to herself he's wrong. She ends up in Gage's bed but can't remember his name or how she got there or what they did. She sneaks out of the hotel room while Gage is in the bathroom.

The ex is well drawn. I've met a few of his type—good looks, narcissistic, and for whom appearance is everything. Let's just say he gets a great comeuppance.

What I loved about this story is the vivid characters and the setting. The story grabbed me from the very first sentence (and the naked buns didn't hurt) and kept me wanting to see what happens next. The characters make you laugh and then go *Awww*, they make you worry about them, and they matter to you. The dialog is excellent, full of humor and innuendos, and those wonderful pithy quips between friends.

Judi Fennell always tells a great story and this one is no exception. It's an all around satisfying story. I'm really looking forward to the next story in the series. It's bound to be a good one.

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### Judy says

I enjoyed reading this book, it made me laugh, great characters

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### Deb Diem says

Beefcake & Cupcakes is my first book by Judi Fennell. This book is both entertaining and fun. Lara and Gage's story is full of drama, humor and sizzle. The characters Ms Fennell has created are lovable and make this story awesome. This book is well-written and a nice smooth read. I enjoyed Beefcake & Cupcakes and look forward to reading more from Judi Fennell soon. Beefcake & Cupcakes is book 1 in the Beefcake, Inc Series but can be read as a standalone. This is a complete book, not a cliff-hanger.

I bought a copy of this book at a book signing.

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## **Ana says**

[image error]

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## **Nancy E Williams says**

### **Dancing cupcakes**

Great book. First time reading this author. The story lines are fun, the characters colorful. Hard to put it down. Baker Laura and her cousin run a cake / cupcakes business. Gage co owns an exotic dance company and does contracting jobs to help pay for his nephews medical care. Plenty of chemistry when the Beefcake and Cupcake meet. You will laugh and love the story. Includes a HEA.

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## **Alima Livzletlivz says**

Judy Fennell came as a gift to be read and sure surprised me with her Beefcake and Cupcake partnership – partnership of a hunky, sexy and beefy Gage Tomlinson with the sweet and delectable Lara Cavallo.

All Lara Cavallo wanted was for her business Cavallo Cups And Cakes to reach delicious levels of success, yet she gets sidetracked by the tantalizing Gage, so much so that she doesn't even remember going to his room with him or what happened that night of Gage himself.

Gage Tomlinson's main goal is to make his business Beefcake Inc. successful and get the necessary money to help for his nephew's surgery. As part owner of the exotic dance company, never expected to get thrown for a loop by the melting and hot buttercream of a woman named Lara.

An utterly delicious and surprise package of a read, you can't help but fall in love with Gage and Lara. For a first time read of Judi Fennell, she sure caught my attention and went on my list of circling back to her.... for more of her delectable cupcakes and beefy hotness! Good story line, good characterization and a fabulous narration of desire and trust all rolled into a connotation of love and a future filled with happiness and hope.

A definite good read, and I for sure can't wait to catch up on Judi Fennell's beefy stories.

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Received a copy as a gift for an honest review.

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## **??♥????Kathy,Ahmazing Book Faerie????♥? says**

Beefcake and Cupcakes  
Gage Tomlinson

Lara Cavallo

Really enjoyed this sort of lighthearted story of falling in love.

Lara wakes up in bed with a stranger, with no recollection of how or why..... well the why, she can assume.

Lara is a good girl, and is shocked with herself, so while Mr. Mystery takes off to the bathroom, Lara takes off...

Two weeks later, Lara is promoting her cupcake business at a Bridal Expo, when a half drunk fool accosts her, and Mr. Beefcake comes to her rescue. He is there promoting his business as well, BeefCake, Inc. male exotic dancers! He speaks to her, and introduces herself as "Gage, Gage Tomlinson ?" in a way she felt meant she knew him.

*Oh God, he'd caught her staring. And that full out grin he had going said he knew just what she'd been looking at, and that he liked her looking. She could feel the blush flaming up her cheeks.*

*He smiled and tipped the brim of his hat, then turned around to help the drunken asshole off the floor.*

*God, the man had one fine backside. Just like Mr. Bare Naked Ass from the hotel two weeks ago.*

*She shook her head. She was insane. Mr. B.N.A. 's ass had been naked; this guy's was covered. No similarity whatsoever. Well, other than the fact that they were both perfectly formed and she wouldn't mind getting her hands on all four cheeks.*

*"How you doin', Cupcake?"*

*Oh my. From him, that pick-up line worked.*

*Then Cowboy stuck out his hand. "Hi. It's Gage. Gage Tomlinson?"*

Gage is a bit ticked that Lara doesn't recall him, especially after waking up in his bed, and then doing a runner! But he perseveres and explains that nothing happened that night. And so their romance begins. There are a few twists and turns on their road to true happiness, but no major dramas, and everything ends up sweet and sexy for the couple, with them deciding to combine their business interests along with their lives.

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### **Linda Sims says**

If you're in the mood for a sweet romance without any drama this will probably fit the bill. Lara who's divorced from her cheating ex husband is co owner of a bakery with her cousin Cara. Gage works construction but also owns beefcakes a male dance group. When Gage and Lara first meet they have a non one nightstand, as Lara was drunk and nothing happened, plus she doesn't remember a thing. Gage is totally taken with Lara and manages to arrange another meeting hoping to get to know her better.

I liked this story as I said before its sweet. I liked Gage a lot he was handsome and sexy. Lara was a little self depreciating which did annoy me a bit although I understood why she was that way. The growing relationship between the two was well portrayed with realistic ups and downs. I might have given this a higher rating but I had some reservations. Firstly considering the content this story was overlong IMO. More needed to happen the opportunities were there in the plot but not followed up, especially considering that Gage was an exotic dancer with women falling over themselves to get to him. There were a couple of other

things that were mentioned but nothing came of it. But it's a pleasant read.

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### **Judith Sherrod says**

#### **Beefcake & Cupcakes**

Gage, every woman's dream. Sexy, built, good looking and honest. Lara every man's dream. Cook, hostess, sexy and horny. They shot sparks together and earned each other's trust to be together always.

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### **Pat says**

Ms. Fennell has done it again with Beefcake (Gage Tomlinson) and Cupcakes (Lara Cavallo).

Gage takes his responsibilities seriously, whether it's finding a way to pay for his nephew's surgeries or take care of the sweetest thing he's ever seen when she passes out in the elevator after a bachelor party. What's a man to do but put her to bed in his hotel room and watch over her?

Lara, owner of a bakery, has always been the good girl--"vanilla" as her rat of an ex-husband called her--until the morning she wakes up in a strange room and gets an eye full of the yummiest buns she's ever seen. Too bad she can't even remember the name of the man who owns them!

All Lara wants to do is prove she can take care of herself and make her business a success. When she finds out Gage lets women ogle his "assets" for money, he reminds her far too much of her cheating ex. She's not ready to let a man into her life, and when she IS ready, he's going to belong to her alone, not a parade of women.

All Gage wants to do is give her a helping hand. His job as the owner of Beetcakes, Inc., an exotic male dance group, is just one more way to pay the bills. And Lara's "cupcakes" are such sweet temptation...

Mix together Ms. Fennell's trademark humor, and a coterie of fun sidekicks (and the requisite villain), and it's a recipe for another surefire winner from this author.

I always enjoy Ms. Fennell's quick wit, fast pace, strong heroines, and to-die-for yummy heroes. Add in discussions of cake, frosting, and a sweet love story, and you have perfection!

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### **Pamela Devereux says**

#### **Wowza**

Gage is hot hot hot. Carpenter/stripper. Lara on a mission to get her business up and running. She failed to remember him and he was determined to get her attention. It was an unusual courting. She could not trust her judgment. Gage needed to make sure she could live with his job. You will not get Gage's playlist out of your mind. Loved this book!

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### **Danielle Gypsy Soul says**

I found this book completely by accident but couldn't resist the yummy cover and a book about a male stripper. It sounded fun and cute and I really needed something fun and lighter after a couple of angst-filled books. This fit the bill perfectly. Gage is the co-owner of a stripper company and a contractor as well. He is hot, loyal, smart, funny and very hard working. He's trying to get enough money to pay for the surgery his nephew needs so his two jobs keep him busy. When he meets Lara he isn't looking for a relationship but he's attracted to her and well the fact that she's a bit of a challenge doesn't hurt. Lara is putting her life back together after ending a marriage with an arrogant, cheating jerk. She's attracted to Gage but has no interest in dating a gorgeous guy and has some self esteem issues stemming from her previous marriage. Gage however is willing to be patient and pursue Lara.

There isn't much drama with this story and what there is stems from their busy schedules and Lara's confidence in dating a hot male stripper. I think there probably could have been more of a story regarding Lara's acceptance of dating a man that takes his clothes off and has tons of women throwing themselves at him and what it takes to deal with that. I enjoyed the fun, playful story with a bit of sizzle. This was my first book by Judi Fennell but I definitely plan on reading the next book in this series.

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### **Annissa Thomas says**

#### **My favorite meal**

Really good story with nice hot scenes. Somehow this book pulled off sweet and endearing while still being steamy. I loved the family relationships that were displayed and whenever a stripping scene was described all I saw was Magic Mike. Yum!

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### **Dre says**

3.5 star. Cute story, but a little long.

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### **Caroline Abreu says**

Love for two genuine, working class people. I absolutely loved Gage and Lara. Both of them are out there doing their best to shovel snow in a blizzard, yet they find each other and manage, around their busy schedules, to be together and take a chance. Gage is juggling his contracting business and ownership in a male revue (it's revue, not review) business that he hopes to parlay into a local adult entertainment club, and helping support his sister and disabled nephew. Lara is a divorcee who has started a baking business that primarily focuses on cupcakes and is just hitting her stride with events and parties. They have "history", as she wakes up after a binge thinking she's had a one-night stand with a stripper, and they meet again at a

bridal fair. Sparks fly, and Gage is determined to follow up with the beautiful woman he cherished but left untouched when she passed out on him after they left a party together.

Will she be able to see past his attractive facade and what he does for a living to the earnest man inside? I found the story fun, a quick read, and there are fun side characters that are going to be interesting in later installments of the series. I hope to see more of Gage's cohorts as well as Lara's cousin Cara, and see what happens with the club.

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