



The Icing on the Cake

Janice Thompson

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Scarlet Lindsey's aunt Wilhelmina may be Texas's most popular cake baker extraordinaire, but she's also getting on in years. When Scarlet decides to take on the role of cake decorator at her cranky aunt's bidding, it's just the beginning of a series of misunderstandings and mishaps that will lead her to compete in a cake challenge on national television-and might even lead her to finding true love.

Fan favorite Janice Thompson is back with more wit, more weddings, and more of what her readers love best-bridal business drama. Bella and the gang are all here and readers will fall in love with the newest quirky characters straight from the creative mind of a fantastic storyteller.

The Icing on the Cake Details

Date : Published August 1st 2013 by Revell Books

ISBN : 9780800721534

Author : Janice Thompson

Format : Paperback 320 pages

Genre : Christian Fiction, Romance, Christian, Contemporary, Christian Romance, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Contemporary Romance

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From Reader Review The Icing on the Cake for online ebook

Casey says

Dab a bit of icing on that cake...it's done! The loveable Rossi family can't get any bigger or more loveable...or can they? Maybe they need to add another lovely member for one of their long-time single young men, hmmm?

For all the fans of the "Bella books", we've ALL been waiting for Armando's love story. The bad boy of the Rossi clan? Oh yeah. I won't say too much for fear of giving away the entire plot of the story, but know this: for old and new fans of Thompson's loveable clan they are sure to find the perfect match in Scarlett and Armando's love story.

I love surrounding a fun, first-person book around food. Probably because anything Italian and then sweet involved with more than a dollop of romance just makes for a yummy, enjoyable escape. The novel is perfect on all these counts. It's sweet and tender with Thompson's brand of humor that keeps the pages flippin' beneath the fingers.

I giggled and sighed through the story, more than a bit glad I got to spend so much time with Bella and her family and get to know Scarlett – and oh Scarlett has a story to tell, a sure favorite for contemporary romantic comedy readers. Talk about beloved characters!

This review is my honest opinion. Thanks to the publishers for my copy to review.

****Available August 2013 from Revell, a division of Baker publishers****

Victor Gentile says

Janice Thompson in her new book, "The Icing On The Cake" Book Two in the Weddings by Design series published by Revell returns us to Galveston Island and into the life of Scarlet Lindsey.

From the back cover: Scarlet isn't sure if she has just the right ingredients for true love—or utter disaster

Scarlet Lindsey is busy making her dreams come true. She's moved her bakery to a prime spot on Galveston's most popular street, she's planning an extravagant cake for her best friend's wedding, and she has a great relationship with Bella Neeley, the island's most popular wedding coordinator. Business is booming and Scarlet is enjoying the ride.

But when Bella's dangerously handsome brother Armando breezes into her life, Scarlet is faced with a sticky situation. Should she stay with the safe, sweet guy who's been a fixture in her life for years? Or will this brash Italian hunk melt her guarded heart?

Fan favorite Janice Thompson is back with more wit, more weddings, and more of what you love best—bridal-business drama laced with laughs.

When you go to a wedding the item that dominates the reception hall is the wedding cake. Bella is the wedding planner and Scarlet not only is the cake baker but also Bella's friend. 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. Scarlet gets involved in a series of misunderstandings and mishaps that cause her to compete in a cake challenge on national television and this is where all the fun is. And then, of course, there is the romance. This book is all about relationships within the family and also among friends and how these relationships can affect those we come in contact with. All the characters are likable and Ms. Thompson has a way of bringing you into the story and making the characters lives very real. I am so looking forward to the next book in this series.

You can find "The Icing On The Cake" at a discount at <http://www.deepershopping.com/item/ja...>

If you would like to listen to interviews with other authors and professionals please go to www.kingdomhighlights.org where they are available On Demand.

To listen to 24 hours non-stop, commercial free Christian music please visit our internet radio station www.kingdomairwaves.org

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."

Available August 2013 at your favorite bookseller from Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group.

Melanie says

Review on Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/review/RMO1JCKL...>

Review on my blog: <http://christianbookshelfreviews.blog...>

There's something about weddings that I just love. Whether it's attending them, watching bridal shows (Say Yes To The Dress, Four Weddings, I Found The Gown, etc.), or reading books with weddings being a main theme - I seem to always enjoy wedding related things. I also love cake decorating shows, so The Icing on the Cake was a great mix for me and I really enjoyed it! :)

The characters were very realistic and their feelings/actions were believable. When I started The Icing on the Cake I didn't care much for Armando (which I think stemmed from the way he was in Picture Perfect - he just seemed like such a player), but he continued to grow on me throughout this story and, in the end, I really liked him.

The story, while predictable, was a fun, light read that I enjoyed a lot. I typically don't read a lot of chick-lit, but this series has caught my interest and I can hardly wait to read the next book, The Dream Dress.

I recommend The Icing on the Cake if you like fun, light romance books. I don't think you need to read Picture Perfect first, but it'd be best if you did.

*I received a complimentary copy of this book for my review. I was not required to give a positive review,

only my honest opinion - which I've done. All thoughts and opinions expressed are my own.*

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Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says

3 stars.

{{ Official Content Review to Come. }}

Rosie says

Another great rom-com from Thompson!

This is an excellent addition to the Weddings by Design series, and a well written one at that. Not that Picture Perfect wasn't splendidly done, because it was. I just think Icing on the Cake is just that: the icing on the cake. Thompson brought to surface an issue that is scarcely written about in fiction: obesity. She handled it with grace and accuracy.

Nonetheless, it felt good to get to know such a beautiful character. I enjoyed Scarlet's presence in Hannah's story, but nothing could have thrilled me more than getting to know dear, sweet, funny Scarlet more. As with every character I grow fond of, I loved watching Scarlett blossom into the woman God made her to be, flaws and all. She changed for the better.

So far, there hasn't been a book written by Miss Thompson that I haven't liked. Time literally flies when I pick up one of her novels, in a very good way. I cannot express how much I enjoy her style, her characters, and her humor. I really need to go finish her Weddings by Bella series now...

If you enjoy clean romantic comedies, then I can almost promise you Janice Thompson won't let you down! I recommend for ages 15 and up.

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I received this book from Revell in return for an honest review of my opinions, which I have done. Thanks!

Dawn says

Scarlet Lindsay's dreams are coming true. Her bakery is booming in it's new location on Galveston's popular street. Her best friend is getting married and Scarlet is planning a dream cake. She's also the baker that Bella Neely consistently recommends to her brides. So everything is great right? And what could go wrong? A lot evidently. First an Italian heartthrob, Bella's brother Armando, breezes into town and melts Scarlet's heart. Then there's her overbearing Aunt Willy. Oh and a cake competition on the Food Network. Plus the troubled teen at Scarlet's church and the talent show. Will Scarlet figure out that sometimes God's plan is better than

all of hers?

I've read quite a few books by Janice Thompson and each one has been a delight. They always make me laugh. With *Icing on the Cake*, readers are introduced to a delicious bakery - if I could gain weight just by reading, then I've probably gained 10 pounds - where the owner, Scarlet, is very self conscious about her body image. She thinks she's fat. One thing that I ABSOLUTELY loved about Armando was that he never saw Scarlet as fat. In fact, he worked hard to build her image up. As always, the gang from Splendor is a treat to reconnect with. As is the large Rossi family. Filled with humor and lessons of learning to not judge and to trust (to name a few), *Icing on the Cake* will delight readers. I always know I'm in for a treat when I read one of these chick lit books. I am eagerly awaiting the third book in the series.

I received the Kindle copy 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 Janice Thompson, chick lit, romantic comedy, romantic comedy movies like *Legally Blonde*, *Sweet Home Alabama*, *Never Been Kissed*, Mary Connealy, Becky Wade, Rachel Hauck

Rating - 4 stars

Available August 2013 at your local bookstore from Revell Books, a division of Baker Publishing Group.

Kara says

Aaahhh. Ms. Thompson's books are comfort reading for me! I love each visit back to Galveston and the crazy lives of its residents. I had been counting down to the release of this book ever since finishing book one several months ago. I'm very pleased to say that this one did not disappoint. There's just something about this Italian family that makes me happy. Not to mention all the Splendor crew as well! Life is never dull with any of them around. :D

Scarlet is pretty reminiscent of Ms. Thompson's other protagonists. She dithers about and has quirky family members and is simply a really nice girl. Although I could have done without her many references to "sticky buns". I got a little tired of it after the first couple times. Still, she's a great baker, she just needs a little more confidence in herself. And Armando? Is just the man to help her learn that! My my my, he was quite a hunk. ;) It was wonderful to get a little more background on him after the small bits we've gotten in previous books. And he and Scarlet had great chemistry. Plus they help one another become a better version of themselves. I can get behind a couple who supports each other and helps the other to learn and grow. It makes their relationship feel more real to me. They're just good together! And I have to admit that I'm a fan of the swoonworthy moments between them as well. I mean, what girl wouldn't want a handsome and suave Italian wooing them? ;)

There's nothing new in this story, but that doesn't matter when it comes to the Rossi's and the Neeley's! They add so much humor and spice and made me giggle again and again. That's what keeps me coming back to these stories. Ms. Thompson knows her humor! I laugh my way through and close the cover with a happy sigh. A feel good story that will draw you in and make you wish Bella and DJ's families were people in real life! If you've loved her other stories, then I'm pretty certain you'll love this one as well. And if you haven't read any of her others, then you should definitely remedy that! :)

Margaret Chind says

Review below image.

This book has been an excellent distraction from life and if anyone can make me enjoy contemporary it's Janice. I've loved the Galveston world of Bella and wedding friends since book one in the first series and now two series later I'm still enthralled and love them all from Weddings by Bella, to Backstage Pass, and now Weddings by Design each character is real enough off the page and entertaining to boot. The last page brought a grin and a tear to my eye.

Thanks to Revell.

This one is late due to circumstances, but I hope to have a deeper review within the week or so.

Update:

The Icing on the Cake by Janice Thompson is a read I needed just right when I had it available to read. As I sit here on the couch attempting by pen and paper to write this review which I will later type I wonder if it is a good time or if the anesthesia has fully worn off yet as I just misspelled icing... Life can be so complicated sometimes and a great past time or distraction may often be found on my bookshelf. This weekend (August 29th) it was found and filled by Janice Thompson first as I returned to the world of wedding organization in Galveston, Texas. This time in the second book of the Weddings by Design series also related to two previous trilogies of Weddings by Bella followed by Backstage Pass.

As I'm organizing my shelves I've noticed Janice Hanna Thompson seems to be taking up quite the amount of space. Her books are keepers. I have not just enjoyed but practically loved every book of hers in which I have read and I'm starting, a wishlist for those I'm missing.

To be honest, I'm having a difficult time seguewaying (sp?) what I want to say about The Icing on the Cake and Queen of the Waves so you may just have to endure a double review.

Be it contemporary Texas or historical atmosphere Janice's books are witty. Full of entertainment through out the characters are lovable and stick with a reader. The seemingly perfect women on the page bear all with their thoughts and many a reader may find a relevant heart. Janice's stories would all make great movies full of calm and wonderfully appropriate romance. I think those in the Club Wed scene would get along well with Rachel Hauck's low country Carolina series characters.

I am internet-friends with Janice and have followed her amazing weight loss journey. Finding a related and very believable life setting for the main character in The Icing on the Cake made it even more interesting to me. I also truly enjoyed the slight mystery of choosing which man Scarlet would want and how she got there. The Icing on the Cake is entertaining and a perfect literary escape.

When I finished reading *The Icing on the Cake* I so enjoyed my adventure to Texas that I needed more of Janice's writing so I snatched a book long overdue and started reading her Titanic historical novel, *Queen of the Waves*. Oh what a world! At this time in my life having seen the epic Titanic film and the first two *Downton Abbey* seasons I was really able to visualize Tessa and Jaqueline's world around them. Adding to that Janice's vivid descriptions and story-telling and I was in fiction bliss.

There are so many elements to this story that I enjoyed. Going into an overall historical tragedy is hard, but when it is someone's writing that you always enjoy I knew she would have an interesting way to pull it all off and still with an ending readers could endure and she did that and more. *The Queen of the Waves* is a beautiful story for historical fans and all those currently in a *Downton-Abbey*-esque phase. A wonderfully vivid escape into the past once again provided by Janice.

I've discovered she is one of the few to entertain in all genres, even non-fiction devotions with great success!

I received this product free for the purpose of reviewing it. I received no other compensation for this review. The opinions expressed in this review are my personal, honest opinions. Your experience may vary. Please read my full disclosure policy for more details.

Melissa says

This book was simply amazing! Janice weaves the story of Scarlet and Armamdo beautifully. I loved the issues the characters faced-they were relatable and made the story one worth telling and reading. If you love romantic Christian fiction with a great message to make you think this is the book for you!

Janna Ryan says

Every once in awhile a series of books comes along that develop such fantastic characters, usually in a delightful setting with fun plots and ideas, that you just can't help falling in love with the entire series and you wait with bated breath for the next book to be released so you can go back to your favorite spot and reconnect with some of your favorite characters while you are introduced to more fun people. In the past I have seen Mary Connealy accomplish that with some of her Christian Westerns, Julie Lessman definitely did that with her Boston series... so much so that she wrote a second series about the same family! Janice Thompson has definitely accomplished the same thing with her Bella books that she has continued in her *Weddings by Design* series! The cover is lovely and fun, but it is just the gateway back to Galveston where we get to meet back up with Bella and her crazy friends and family but we really have the opportunity to get to know cake designer, Scarlet and Bella's brother (troublemaker) Armando!

The storyline is fun (love the tv contest and the descriptions of the hot lights and the horror of going through all of that!) but you know the girl will get her happily ever after... with Janice's books it isn't so much the suspense of - whoever will she end up with?!?! but more the witty journey that gets you there. The writing style is hilarious and a mile a minute riot. I absolutely adore her books and *Icing On the Cake* is just the next in a wonderful series that I encourage you to start from the very beginning with *Fools Rush In* and then go all the way through (and don't forget the *Backstage Pass* series that picks up with characters that first appear in the *Fools Rush In* books...) I can't wait for the next one!!!

Barbara Shelton says

Before I opened "Icing on the Cake" written by Janice Thompson, I anticipated lots of fun and many surprises. Janice's sense of humor and tongue in cheek quotations at the beginning of each chapter were so entertaining – my favorite being "Families are like fudge, mostly sweet with a few nuts." (Author unknown) Having read the prequel "Picture Perfect," in this series – Weddings by Design - many of the characters were familiar to me in the beautiful setting on Galveston Island. Janice's stories are written ingeniously around wedding productions created by Bella Neely and Club Wed; and the whole cast of characters from Bella's odd family; Scarlett's family and other familiar characters like Hannah and Drew whose wedding is being planned in this episode. There is not a family on this Island that isn't sweet with a few nuts!

Our main character Scarlett Lindsey had just opened her own bakery, Let Them Eat Cake, on the popular Strand. Her friend Kenny worked in the bakery and had a crush on Scarlett, however she was a bit of two minds where romance with Kenny was concerned. Little did Scarlett know what she was in for when her spinster Aunt Willy, an infamous first-rate chef, financed Scarlett's venture. Not only was Scarlett planning an elaborate wedding cake for her best friend Hannah's wedding, she was in charge of planning the church fund raiser.

We met Armando, Bella's brother, in "Picture Perfect" as the problem child of the Rossi family with a reputation of being a real womanizer. He swept in and out of the first story like a bird on the fly and had a dislike for staying on the Island. Scarlett had issues with her self-image because of being overweight. Many, including "moi" can relate to her inner feelings and insecurities. Let Them Eat Cake was located next door to John's Pizzeria where Armando worked in his family's business. Scarlett and Armando found themselves pushed together at a Rossi family event – not at all to Scarlett's liking. An indefinite relationship sets in motion...and Scarlett begins to perceive Armando differently. He volunteers to help solve the sound problem at the church which meant more time spent in each other's company. When Scarlett fills in for Armando's mother on a Food Network competition with a secret recipe for Italian Wedding Cake, she decides to drop a few pounds so she'll look better on camera. Now the real fun begins, so hold onto your hat!

Ms Thompson has an innate talent at developing a plot that serves the heart in hilarity to sentiment along with beautiful spirituality throughout. What does "sticky buns" and "Lucille Ball of I Love Lucy" have to do with Scarlett's anxiety? It was entertaining as the author allowed the reader into Scarlett's inner thoughts and I laughed loudly at the zany debates she argued with herself. One never knows what to expect in the stories Janice Thompson writes. She is perceptive in creating characters that are well rounded and real. Her characters build as the story moves forward and can be loved in one chapter and disliked in the next. Scarlett reminded me so much of myself that that I wondered who might have been the role model for Janice. Honestly, I've never met Janice Thompson in my life....although I'd consider it an honor to do so.

My Book Addiction and More MBA says

THE ICING ON THE CAKE by Janice Thompson is another delightful inspirational Contemporary Romance set on Galveston Island. #2 in the "Weddings by Design" series, but can be read as a stand alone. See, "Picture Perfect". Join Scarlet Lindsey, and her friends, as Scarlet tries to make her dreams come true.

Her best friend Bella Neeley is getting married and Scarlet is to make the wedding cake. Scarlet bless her, can not only make cakes, she skirts disaster as well. With, weddings, charm, wit, wedding cakes, and romance what not to enjoy! Ms. Thompson has done it again with her "Weddings by Design" series. She certainly knows how to spin a tale of charm, humor, weddings, wedding cakes, with her sweet romantic story of Scarlet and Armando, Bella's dangerous Italian brother. Well written with charismatic characters and a treat of a story! If you enjoy a witty storyline, charismatic characters, sweet romance, Weddings and a taste of love than pick up "The Icing on the Cake" you will not be sorry. Another enjoyable read by Janice Thompson. Received for an honest review from the publisher.

****Available August 2013 from Revell, a division of Baker publishers****

RATING: 4

HEAT RATING: SWEET

REVIEWED BY: AprilR, Review courtesy of My Book Addiction and More

Cafelilybookreviews says

Second book in the Weddings By Design series, The Icing On The Cake connects readers with some familiar characters who have appeared in Janice's other books. I thoroughly enjoyed this story and hated to see it end. It kept me interested and entertained, with fun characters and several twists and turns.

I also enjoyed how real and vulnerable Scarlet was in this book. She faces concerns that most women in real life have dealt with at one time or another.....weight loss/gain, self control (or lack of), self esteem, wondering if Mr. Right is out there and more. Scarlet's emotional ups and downs were very tangible and easy to relate to.

This story offers humor, wit and a sweet romance that feels very natural and easy. I highly recommend this one! And don't forget to check out the recipe for Italian Wedding Cake, included at the back of the book!

Stormi (BMReviewsohmy) says

Janice Thompson is by far one of my favorite Christian authors to read. She has the ability to make you really care about and love her characters. They are so of the wall funny and I love how she incorporate some music or movie icon. In Icing on the Cake it's Lucille Ball! Just ask yourself what would Lucy do?

Scarlet is a baker and she really loves what she does. She has the ability to make the most delicious cakes, brownies and cookies. So when her aunt decided to fun her first bakery shop she is thrilled, that is until her aunt Willy seems to want to take over her baking life. Her aunt is really intimidating and Scarlet is always feeling inadequate when it comes to her aunt. It doesn't help that Scarlet isn't a little tiny supermodel, she is a few pounds overweight. To Scarlet she feels larger than life and doesn't seem to see herself the way others do. Scarlet is one of my favorite characters because I think she is very easy to relate too as she is not a skinny girl.

If you have read the Weddings by Bella or the first Weddings by Design books then you have already met Armando. Armando is Bella's younger brother and he is known for being a troublemaker and a bit of a bad boy. He has never been one of my favorite characters and I wasn't sure how I felt about him being paired with Scarlet. In this book though you get to learn a lot more about Armando and see a side of him that you don't get to see in the other books. He has grown up a lot in this book and he grew on me as the book progressed.

Scarlet has her plate full with not only opening her bakery, but she gets roped into a baking competition, and she is trying to organize a talent competition for a church fundraiser. She is dealing with not having the feelings she thinks she should have for her faithful friend and kitchen help, Kenny. Then in steps Armando to help her with her churches soundboard and he is so hot and sexy that she has a hard time concentrating. She keeps thinking about everything she has heard about him, but learns that she needs to make her own decision about him based on what he is doing now and not his past. Armando comes to her rescue more than once and has proved himself faithful and doesn't see her as being anything but a woman with a hearty appetite! He is the Ricky to her Lucy!

If you haven't read the Weddings by Bella series then I highly recommend you start there first, though any of these could be read alone you just really need the whole feel of the books. Then grab the Wedding by Design series which is where Icing on the Cake comes in. These books are great fun and wonderful light-hearted romantic reads. If you don't laugh then something is wrong! :o)

Laura says

Title: THE ICING ON THE CAKE

Author: Janice Thompson

Publisher: Revell

August 2013

ISBN: 978-0800721534

Genre: Contemporary romance

Scarlet isn't sure if she has just the right ingredients for true love--or utter disaster

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But when Bella's dangerously handsome brother Armando breezes into her life, Scarlet is faced with a sticky situation. Should she stay with the safe, sweet guy who's been a fixture in her life for years? Or will this brash Italian hunk melt her guarded heart?

Fan favorite Janice Thompson is back with more wit, more weddings, and more of what you love best--bridal-business drama laced with laughs.

THE ICING ON THE CAKE is the second book in Ms. Thompson's Weddings by Design series. While this book stands alone, readers will want to read the first one, Picture Perfect so they get the full sugary dosage.

I enjoyed reading THE ICING ON THE CAKE. After reading many nonfiction books this month, it was the perfect lighthearted, humorous romance to brighten the summer. And with summer being the ideal time for weddings, be sure to give this one to read when you travel to one this year. Or for a late summer beach read.

Don't miss THE ICING ON THE CAKE. Ms. Thompson knows weddings and cakes and this is the perfect look at behind the scenes. \$13.99. 320 pages.
