



# Better At Weddings Than You

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## **Better At Weddings Than You** Mina V. Esguerra

Daphne Cardenas is the best wedding planner around, and everyone knows it. That's why her friend Greg hired her as an emergency replacement one month before his wedding—because he fears his fiancée Helen is falling for the guy they first hired for the job.

Aaron Trinidad is new to the wedding industry but years of conference planning and loads of charm make him good at it. Really good at it. Planning the wedding of his friend Helen should be easy, and it is. To be unceremoniously fired isn't good for his new career, but the chance to learn from the best might be the silver lining.

Aaron and Daphne have chemistry, but there's history with Helen that at least one other person considers a threat. Who's the planner who can fix this impending disaster?

(Part of the Chic Manila series, but can be read as a standalone.)

## **Better At Weddings Than You Details**

Date : Published April 15th 2017 by Bright Girl Books

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Author : Mina V. Esguerra

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# From Reader Review Better At Weddings Than You for online ebook

**Sue (Hollywood News Source) says**

I read Better At Weddings Than You after a two-week drought of not finishing anything. This novel is everything I ever needed and I gave it five stars. It was an exhilarating, fun, and steamy book. If that *still* doesn't convince, I suppose we can't be friends.

I typically don't enjoy the-we-just-met narrative for romance. I prefer long history of build-up, but Esguerra certainly knows how to flesh out her characters. Better At Weddings Than You follows the story Daphne. She's the in-demand wedding planner in the country. She's perfect, beautiful, and has a reputation for being petrifying. It's not a rocket science why her friend Greg enlisted her help to overthrow their planner, a month before his wedding. He's worried that his fiancée might be in love with this guy.

It's Aaron Trinidad, an amateur wedding planner. He's oblivious that his friend Helen might be in love with him. Being fired from his job might not be the worst thing ever when he's roped into working with Daphne. He might learn a thing or two from the queen of wedding planning.

I love that both of them are wedding planners. It challenged masculinity and gender roles. There's a twist, it's the female character Daphne who's more reveled and prominent in the industry while the male character Aaron is the amateur.

*"Why don't you want a relationship?" He blurted that out without an intro . "I... I'm curious. You could be married with kids by now if you wanted to, but you're not."*

*"Hmm." Daphne looked at him, but turned to the water when she answered. "Do you think I'm just saying that? Like I'm reverse psychologizing the universe?"*

*"If you wanted to, you could have anyone."*

*"This is so fascinating," she said. "This conversation. I keep wanting to have this conversation with someone and it figures I'll be having it with a man."*

*Daphne did that.* This scene just struck me, it's so funny and ironic. I love that she's talking about the double-standard expectations we set for women in their thirties. Daphne doesn't give a damn. She's flippant. She states her mind. She's tired of giving people the benefit of the doubt. She's in charge of her autonomy and sexuality. She's "too much" for the barricade we subject Filipina to. I love a well-crafted character and she's one of them.

It's also endearing that despite being crowned as a man eater and being considered as an unlikable female character you never see her bring down another woman to uplift herself. I wish more authors would remember that in terms of writing their female characters. There's no necessary reason for pitting girls against each other.

**What you can expect: wedding extravaganza, food descriptions, hot massages, and more.**

Verdict: I would recommend Better At Weddings Than You in a heartbeat. I love the romance, the female

characters, the lovely ambiance. It was a win-win situation.

Review also posted at Hollywood News Source.

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### **alexis says**

LOVED THIS.

I loved the heroine. I loved the hero. I loved all the characters. And that ending... perfect.

Review to come closer to release date.

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### **Miel Salva says**

We are so used to the woes of the couple (usually just the bride who wants to be hands-on all of the stuff while the groom is just chill) but not with the behind-the-scenes handled by the people hired to make the event perfect. #BAWTY shows both sides but here, Ms. Mina focused more on the equally stressful life of coordinators.

One of the many interesting things about the main characters Daphne and Aaron was the swap of roles. It was apparent with their chosen profession. What was a straight, hot tattooed guy doing in the wedding coordinating business? And then there's Aaron's penchant for old-school planning, almost like scrapbook style. And the fact that he's more showy with his feelings...it's refreshing to read about a guy doing things mostly associated with girls. Which added to Aaron's charms too.

And then, Daphne.

Yes, she is the boss who knows her thing. And she makes sure Aaron knows it too. She gets the job done even if it's uncomfortable. But she also acknowledges if she needs help (albeit reluctantly. But really, who could turn Aaron down anyway? hehehe)

Daphne and Aaron's chemistry is so strong that before Chapter 1 ends, I was already shipping them hard.

I think dialogues is one of Ms. Mina's strengths and it's apparent in this story. It's not just the banters that always crack me up, but the way the characters' conversation and their topic could make you ponder on your own life choices and situation.

Did I say I had to skip lunch and get my nails done instead so nobody would talk to me and I could read the Coron part in peace? Yep, I did that. It's been a while since I picked up something I wanted to read so bad, hahaha.

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### **K.J. Charles says**

Delightful contemporary Filipinx romance with two wedding planners getting it together. Daphne,

introduced as a woman who doesn't give a fuck, is marvellous. She's highly job focused without being portrayed as sad, obsessed, spinsterish or all the other career woman cliches. She knows what she wants, which does not include being the person on whom a man relies for his happiness. You know the gif of a cat knocking things off a table captioned "Fuck this--fuck that--fuck the other thing"? Daphne. She takes no prisoners, is happy to have enjoyable hot sex, and is not going to see her success sabotaged by a man ever.

Aaron is equally lovely. He could easily have been a classic 30something is He Finally Ready to Settle Down character, except he's with Daphne who isn't even putting that on the table, and as a result we get a lovely situation of this thoroughly nice, if somewhat feckless guy finding himself in determined pursuit of a woman who isn't walking anyone else's path.

Fun, lightly trodden but still emotional, highly readable, sexy (though mostly closed door): a romp of a read. And what a fantastic title. A very pleasing V-Day read.

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## Chelsea says

**review also posted on Wordpress! spoiler-free review!**

I read *Better At Weddings Than You* back in May, so I have to write this review based on the notes I took back then. I apologise that this review won't be as thorough as usual.

I never read M/F romances. It's absolutely not something I tend to enjoy, but I saw *Better At Weddings Than You* receiving hype on Twitter, so I was intrigued. Since this is written by a Filipino author, I was definitely more willing to give this a chance than if this were a novel about allocishet able-bodied white people written by an allocishet able-bodied white author.

Though I didn't necessary love this just because this genre isn't my favourite, I did find *Better At Weddings Than You* very entertaining. Towards the end there was some unnecessary drama that has to be in every romance novel, which definitely made this more predictable, but I can live with that.

I read this in public, which is quite embarrassing because this book features multiple sex scenes :D So be aware of that, because the cover might look fluffy, but the content is definitely more mature.

It's 100% my fault that this isn't a five star read, because like I've said, I'm not the biggest fan of M/F romances. But that is entirely my opinion, so if you do enjoy romances, I'd definitely recommend *Better At Weddings Than You*!

✳ You can also find me on Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr, Pinterest and Wordpress! ✳

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## Solaine Chioro says

Esse livro é tão curto e me fez de trouxa tão rápido, estou chocada!

Eu decidi ler *Better At Weddings Than You* porque é romance filipino, a protagonista parecia sensacional e o casal não parecia problemático. E o que eu recebi em retorno? EXATAMENTE ISSO! A Daphne Cardenas

é uma personagem tão incrível que eu não sei nem como começar a falar dela. Ela é bem-sucedida, sabe o que quer da vida (e não fica esperando as coisas acontecerem) e poderia muito bem ser a dona do universo. Por causa de uma treta muito estranha, ela meio que é obrigada a trabalhar com o Aaron no planejamento de um casamento, um novato que não sabe o que tá com te seno direito, mas tá super animado de trabalhar com a organizadora de casamento mais topzera da cidade. O desenvolvimento do casal é super bacaninha e você fica sorrindo desde a primeira interação deles, só esperando todos os clichês serem jogados na sua cara. Eu sempre fico com pé atrás com NA e esperando vir os relacionamentos abusivos da vida, mas graças aos céus não rolou isso em *Better At Weddings Than You*. O livro representa um relacionamento bem maduro e que desenrola de uma forma bem orgânica, sem nada que me fizesse revirar os olhos ou querer jogar o kindle pra longe. Recomendo muuuuito a leitura pra quem curte um romance bem amorzinho (e que não se incomode com umas cenas quentes aqui ou ali), porque esse é um livro que com certeza vai agradar. Gostei tanto que agora tô condenada a ler todos os outros livros da série Chic Manila, não tem jeito.

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### **Suraya (thesuraya) says**

im starting to know more and more great filipino authors!!

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### **Emily de Moura says**

WHAT A GOOD BOOK.

I picked *Better at Weddings Than You* for this years' Asian Lit Bingo (the prompt was romance with poc / indigenous love interest) and also because one of my friends can't stop talking about Mina V. Esguerra and I wanted to understand WHAT WAS GOING ON.

I can safely say now I understand what is going on.

*Better at Weddings Than You* is a fun, light, quick read that follows both Aaron (THE MOST TROUXA MAN IN THE ENTIRE WORLD) and Daphne, a woman who knows what she wants and gets it when she wants it. They both work as wedding planners and end up meeting because their friends are getting married and the groom fears the bride is in love with Aaron. (view spoiler)

The book is quick, but Daphne and Aaron's chemistry is there since page one AND I LOVED IT. They're two grown adults and they act like it AND I'M SO!! GLAD!! I'm not sure I could handle all the tension between them for long. (view spoiler) Mina's writing pretty great too and, even though the book's in third person, it's pretty clear when Daphne or Aaron are the main focus.

And since I'm here, both Daphne and Aaron ARE SUCH GREAT CHARACTERS. I loved Daphne and how she's super sucessful at what she does and I loved that Aaron himself was such a puppy. Them working together was great and I can only praise Mina for writing a new adult book that has such a good relationship and a couple with such good chemistry t\_t If you're looking for a fun, light hearted, great na book, READ THIS.

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## Silvana [The Book Voyagers] says

Mina's newest, **Better At Weddings Than You**, was simply my favorite of the month. I needed my romance fix and it sure gave me that and more. The main characters, Daphne and Aaron, are weddings planners and I love that Daphne is the one who is the veteran in the business while Aaron is the newcomer and the one who has been doing wedding planning for not so long. He really admires Daphne as well so I really find that super nice and great, I imagine this situation where Daphne is doing wedding planning stuff and she enters the room and Aaron is just like \*sighs\* \*taking pictures of her\* you're doing so good sweetie i'm so in love \*keeps taking more pictures\* I love this duo and their dynamic.

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## Lisa says

THIS IS SOME GOOD SHIT-

I thought it would be kind of a rivalry thing with Daphne and Aaron but it wasn't and I'm okay with that because I love the plot. I love Daphne and Aaron's relationship development, and most importantly I am now a big fan of Daphne Cardenas. She's awesome, she's successful and the best at what she does, she doesn't give two fucks about what people say re: her single at 30s status, ... I want to be that successful and confident in my 30s.

Anyway, WHY HAVEN'T I READ THIS SOONER???? smh

My Twitter reading thread: [HERE](#).

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## Shealea says

First things first: **I received a digital Advance Reader's Copy (ARC) of this book as part of my participation in a blog tour hosted by the author herself** – this, however, neither affects my opinion nor the content of my review in any way. Many thanks to Mina V. Esguerra for this delightful opportunity!

One of the strongest points of this novel is the manner in which Daphne and Aaron's relationship is handled. Their transition from mildly hostile strangers to unlikely friends to perfectly matched lovers is so thoughtfully developed that the progression flowed both naturally and almost magically. The chemistry between the two of them is consistently palpable (most prevalently evidenced during the fantastic sex scenes), and their clever banter never failed to keep me engaged.

Truthfully, I can go on and on about how much I loved this and how much I enjoyed that, but realistically speaking, I don't have the time for such indulgences. But I will say that *Better At Weddings Than You* is the kind of story that I cannot imagine myself getting sick of rereading. In fact, it is my first 5-star read for 2017!

Although this is my first time to encounter her work, I am thoroughly convinced that Mina Esguerra is a brilliant and cunning wordsmith. At first glance, her writing style seems pretty simple, but as I further immersed myself into the story, I've come to realize that the ripples her words leave are powerfully

profound. Esguerra writes with unparalleled flair, subtle precision, and striking imagery. I look forward to reading many more of her books!

Actual rating: **5 stars**

\* Read the entire review on [That Bookshelf Bitch!](#)

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### **Kristy Mauna says**

This is a perfect romance novel for the broken hearted!

I easily fell in love with Daphne and Aaron - their relationship is sexy and fun, definitely had me swooning! ;)

Mina V. Esguerra is just the best. I'm always a little hesitant when it comes to shorter romance novels, but her characters manage to be fleshed out and easy to relate to. And Daphne is such a boss! Also, it was refreshing to read from older POVs (both Daphne and Aaron being in their 30s). The wedding planning, their romance, and individual stories made this an enjoyable read!

Another Mina book that I loved and highly recommend.

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### **Claire - The Coffeeholic Bookworm says**

Planning a wedding is Daphne Cardenas' expertise. She's the one who meets every bride's demands, who talks to couples having second thoughts, who makes sure that their dream wedding come true. When she was asked to take over her friend's wedding, she was stumped. Not only did she feel bad for the one she was replacing, she knew a wedding disaster would unfold if the bride had other groom in mind.

I can always count on Mina Esguerra to level up her game and make sure that the cliched insta-love wouldn't make readers cringe. Daphne and Aaron may have met a few days before spending their "honeymoon" together, but this kind of relationship is slow-burning and intoxicating. I wouldn't mind getting a backrub from Aaron Trinidad on our first date, mind you.

Better At Weddings Than You is such a fun read; I had a grin on my face nearly the whole time I was reading it. Daphne isn't your typical lady-in-waiting, she's smart, defined and professional on the outside, and a one hot dynamite inside the bedroom. Aaron needs all the help he can get when it comes to planning a wedding; but he's an expert in the honeymoon phase. Go figure.

I always found Esguerra's writing very captivating. I love how she engages the reader from the beginning and allows to connect with the characters until the end. This isn't my first book by the author, and it definitely isn't the last.

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### **Laís Arjona says**

4.5/5.0

This book is so good! A light romcom with a independent successful female character and a sweet gentle



(and really trouxa) male character, adults acting as adults, no drama.

I loved how they interacted with each other, they had chemistry, they respected each other, they were honest, they were mature and i loved it.

Actually, I don't even know what to say about this book, because it's so much fun and SO sweet. I already knew a lot about this story cause my friends talk about it nonstop and it was EXACTLY what I expected!

Daphne and Aaron's love was (tranquilo, com sabor de fruta mordida) EASY! Not that it didn't have it's challenges, but for them, it was easy to love each other, and for me, it was easy to love them too.

Also, Julie was amazing! The kind of friend that everyone loves <3

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## **Geri Reads says**

Loved the hero who is also wedding planner like the heroine. Steamier than the other Mina Esquerre books I've read. I wish there was more of a grand ending. Although I must say that the ending does fit with both Daphne's and Aaron's character so it works.

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