



## The Bouquet List

*Barbara DeLeo*

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**The Bouquet List** Barbara DeLeo

**He's #5 on her Bouquet List.** *Tall, dark...and completely forbidden.*

After a too-close call with death, Yasmin Katsalos is checking some things off her Bouquet List—things to do after you thought you were going to die. Fun fashion choices? Check. Purple hair and a cute diamond nose stud? Check, check. Now she's on to item #5: a flirty fling with a man who's tall, dark, rich...and totally out of her league.

And restaurateur Lane Griffiths definitely fits the bill.

Lane isn't just out of Yasmin's league. He's also her brother's best friend and therefore off-limits. Now that they're working together on renovations for her family's wedding hall, however, Yasmin has plenty of opportunities to bewitch, bother, and boldly seduce. He's reserved. She's relaxed. The only thing they share is a spark of attraction that's too strong to resist. But is Lane just another item on her bouquet list... or has Yasmin found something on her list that will last?

## The Bouquet List Details

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Author : Barbara DeLeo

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## From Reader Review The Bouquet List for online ebook

### Lyn says

I'm not sure where to start with this book. I felt as if I was a part of the story from the very beginning. Yasmin's "bouquet list" was definitely a twist on the typical bucket list. I felt the importance of family throughout this book, and I'm hoping Genie, Nick and Ari all get their own HEAs too.

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### Karen says

The Bouquet List is my absolute favorite kind of read!! I love friends to lovers romances so much! And I loved the idea of a "bouquet list"! This was a fun read and I really enjoyed getting to know Yasmine and Lane!

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### Rachel says

Barbara DeLeo puts a refreshing spin on the traditional bucket list with this book. What you do if you survived a brush with death? If you're the heroine of this book you create a bouquet list. It's things she wants to do to now she knows she's not going to die. Personally I think it's a brilliant idea.

When Yasmin our heroine created her bouquet list, she was recovering from dengue fever and put things on her list that would take her out of her good Greek daughter role and make her happy. Things like put a streak of colour in her hair, get a nose ring, have a one night stand with a man that's out of her league. Easy things to accomplish right ?

For Lane our hero, his plan is to help out the Katsalos's who have been more like family than his own family while he waits for this own restaurant to be ready to open. He would do anything to help the Katsalos family. Even work with Yasmin. Who makes his blood heat and it hard to concentrate when she's around.

But as they work closely together, Lane and Yasmin become closer than either expected. When Yasmin's blurts out he's on her list things get complicated. He's trying to do the right thing, but she is temptation wrapped up in a colourful package,

Soon after they give in to the attraction, they realise they may want different things from their futures. But can they overcome the obstacles of different planned life paths to find the kind of love they both want or will they let what they have found with each other crumble in ruins?

This is a perfect addition to the Bliss imprint. The story will give you highs, lows and some fun in between and will leave you with a satisfied sigh when you turn the last page.

This book was supplied by the publisher for an honest review

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### **Bette Hansen says**

After surviving a life threatening illness Yasmin returns home to live her life on her terms. She has come up with her own version of a bucket list and is determined to complete it.

This is a great fun read that gives us a little glimpse into the the Greek culture. While the story takes place in the US the references to the heroines Greek heritage are fun and an integral part of the story. The book has great pace, interesting characters, and a fun story. I recommend it.

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### **Kathy says**

Hmmm... the door didn't close. Not sure what to think at this point. I just saw an older cover that had this branded as a Red Hot Bliss title. I typically avoid those because I prefer my books with less content. This did have a good story-line.

Content: mild language, short sex scene

Source: Netgalley

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### **Heather andrews says**

Lane he's just so hot and sometimes I don't think Yasmin knows what to do with that, "hey," Lane drew close and she breathed his freshly showered scent deep. "You look very nice...and very...studious." He sometimes has to be the level minded one in the relationship as much as it kills him, "this time he nuzzled her shoulder, then laid a kiss on the warm skin exposed. "We've slept the morning away and it's nine fifteen. As much as I don't want you going anywhere, you said you need to speak to your mom." This was a cute read and I loved Lane.

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### **Jessica Alcazar says**

I am now a HUGE fan of Barbara DeLeo! This was a wonderful story about two friends who become lovers with a HEA!! The hero and heroine were perfect for each other! Lane was the grounded, sturdy one and Yasmine was the fly by the seat of your pants one. They equalized each other. It was perfect! The story itself kept you interested because there were quite a few pitfalls but I couldn't stop reading. I just HAD to see them HEA! It was really compelling! I highly recommend it to anyone!

ARC copy provided via NetGalley by Entangled Publishing, LLC for an honest review!

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### **Laurie says**

The Bouquet List is the story of Yasmin Katsalos, a dutiful daughter from a traditional Greek family, who has experienced a life changing event. She creates a list of things that she must do, now that she knows that life can be too short.

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Yasmin was such a breath of fresh air. She has returned home with the hopes of reconnecting with her family, but things are in a bit of upheaval. Yasmin is ready to help with the family a wedding hall, a business that desperately needs to be updated. She has to straddle that razor thin line between the traditional attitudes of her family and her own ideas for bringing the business into this millennium. She is a strong young woman who loves her family dearly, but wants to be seen less as a little girl and more as an adult.

Lane is an enigma. I loved his POV – where Yasmin viewed him as the quiet, staid best friend of Yasmin's brother, we find that those still waters run deep -- Very deep. He is tall, dark and gorgeous and kind of crushing on Yasmin, too. Also, Lane is Yasmin's partner in the renovation of the Katsalos' wedding hall. I loved Lane because as a character, he was in on this project because of love and loyalty to the Katsaloses.

I loved the Bouquet List because of the family element to the book. That both Yasmin and Lane are about doing what is best for the family and discover the power of their partnership – both in business and on a personal level. I loved their relationship and that the familiarity bred a level of respect between them.

This is such a sweet story. I hope to read more about these characters in this continuing series.

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## **Nicola says**

### **3.5 stars.**

*The Bouquet List* is a charming romance using the tried and tested formulas of friends-to-lovers and older brother's best-friend.

Yasmin Katsalos has a *bouquet list*: a list of things she plans on doing as she's *not* going to die. Returning home to help out with her family's restaurant renovation, she discovers her brother's best friend will be working with her. Lane Griffiths, the man who meets her criteria for #5 on her list.

***"...a fling with a man who's tall, dark, rich and totally out of her league."***

Lane was a sweetheart; set in his ways and a little straight laced at first, the man stole my heart and I loved Yasmin's live-for-the-moment attitude and how she encouraged him to loosen up a little. They have a lovely chemistry and are perfect for one another, except he craves the stable family dynamic that Yasmin and her brothers grew up with and he never had, whilst she dreams of a family who follow her wanderlust. And bless him, he falls hard.

***"You're a hard woman to resist, Yasmin Katsalos, but a kiss or two between old friends never hurt anyone, did it?"***

With fun, romance and frustration, Barbara Deleo has kicked off the *Weddings in Westchester* series nicely. I did think it was a wee bit slow burning at first, but if a sweet, touching romance that leaves you with a smile on your face is what you're after, then this is one to grab.

*Copy received courtesy of Entangled Publishing for an honest and unbiased opinion*

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## Chris C - A Midlife Wife says

This was a fun read. It is full of surprises and one delicious guy that we all our list - Tall, dark, rich, and totally out of our league. Except there's one problem. He is her brother's best friend and a complete opposite of everything that she wants.

The author created a light-hearted read. We follow these characters on their road to self discovery along with a little bit anxiety mixed in. I honestly didn't know what it would take to get these two together. But the opposites attract action is in full force!

She's all for it. After all he is on her bouquet list. He is doesn't want to mess up anything with her family but when he fell, he fell hard! He is just so sweet!

Full of sweet chemistry and ending that leave you on the edge just a little bit, the story is delightful and leaves you wanting to check out the next in the series "Weddings in Westchester". I can't wait!

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## Fiction Fangirls says

Jaime's Review

This was a sweet brothers best friend romance with little to no angst. I loved the whole premise of this story. The aspect of a Greek wedding venue gave me a "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" vibe and I love that movie!

Yasmin and her piercing, purple hair and Bouquet list were such a fun concept and when you add in Lane and his smart, oblivious sexiness it made for a pretty great read. If you're looking for something light-hearted and fun to read, this is a great option.

\*I received an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review This review was originally posted on Fiction Fangirls

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## Carol-Ann says

A lovely Romance read, Loved this romance story enjoyed the character's of Yasmin Katsalos, who had a list of things to do and she was on #5 A fling with a man who was tall dark and rich and that was Restaurateur Lane Griffiths, who was also her brother's best friend and therefore should be off limits, But she is a girl who goes after what she wants! Thank you to entangled bliss for this Arc for an honest Review,

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## Helen says

I have had this one on my TBR pile for quite some time and with the second book in this series coming out in May I needed to get this one read I had heard lots of good things about it and they were all correct what a great fun story this one was I thoroughly enjoyed it from page one.

Yasmin Katsalos has returned home to her family after nearly dying with Dengue fever while studying for her PHD in Borneo, she decides to make a bouquet list and make sure she gets it done firstly dye her hair get

a piercing and to do what she wants in life rather than what everyone else wants plus a few other things. Yasmin comes from a Greek family that runs a wedding reception venue and when she returns home there is a problem her mother has returned to Greece and her father is going after her mother and leaving the Aegean Palace in her hands with renovations to be done in steps her brother's best friend Lane Griffiths the guy Yasmin had always had a crush on could he be no 5 on her list?

Lane Griffiths didn't have much of a family life growing up passed from mother to father but what he had was his best friend Nick Katsalos's family a big Greek and oh so family orientated one. Lane has made a name for himself in the restaurant business and is in between jobs at the moment so when he is asked by Mr Katsalos to help oversee the renovations on the Aegean Place and restaurant he gladly agrees he has a spare month to do so. But when he meets up with Nick's sister Yasmin who is so different from what he remembers this is going to change so much in his life.

Really this book will have you laughing and turning the pages this is a fabulous story about families best friends and doing what you want in life. Seeing conservative Lane open up when Yasmin pushes a little and seeing Yasmin changing was very uplifting. I highly recommend this book there are lots of emotions and love and joy that come to life on the pages the characters are real and alive and fresh bring on book two.

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### **Maria Rose says**

Note: this book has been modified from its original version (reviewed below) and is no longer a Red Hot Bliss title. This means it now has closed door bedroom scenes. In no way should that deter a lover of good romances from picking this up, as the story and characters are worth reading!

This wonderful romance is the story of Yasmin and Lane. When Yasmin returns from Borneo after experiencing a brush with death from illness, she finds her family's wedding business suffering and is determined to help make it over into a thriving business again. When Lane, her brother's friend and restaurateur is partnered with her to help with the redesign she can't help but think he'd make a great number on her bouquet list, things she wants to accomplish with her new lease on life. But while seducing an out of her league man seems like a good challenge, her feelings for Lane and his for her become something more - is she willing to change her list for a chance at a future with Lane?

I really enjoyed this book! The greek heritage added wonderful details to the setting, with the food descriptions, language and overall family dynamics. Yasmin is a feisty and fun woman, having decided with her new lease on life that she's going to do all the things she's always wanted to do, with or without anyone's approval. Her character sparkles and is exactly the opposite of anything Lane ever thought he'd want - and yet he is enchanted by her. Lane is a handsome, determined, staid businessman - dedicated to his career and interested in helping out this family that has been there for him since he was a child. Seeing the new Yasmin he can't help but be attracted to her and her bold seduction of him wins him over quickly. The sexual chemistry between them is sizzling and the love scenes are well written and steamy! I enjoyed how different their characters were and how they both needed to learn to compromise in order to make their relationship work.

Overall I found this to be a very entertaining read, with engaging characters, an interesting plot, humorous and witty dialogue and a delightful romance. 4 stars!

Note: a copy of this story was provided by the publisher for review.

## Ada says

\*I received an eARC in exchange for my honest review\* :)

I have to say I definitely enjoyed this between Yasmin and Lane. I'm a big fan of friends to lovers stories, even more so when it's a friend of a sibling, in this case Yasmin's older brother Nick is Lane's best friend. My biggest thing with these tropes is how they handle the change from being "forbidden" to succumbing to their passions and I'd have to say Barbara DeLeo made it a delightful journey!

Lane starts out as very rigid, very set in being proper while Yasmin is a free spirit, especially after a close call with death due to contracting Dengue fever while studying abroad. I really enjoyed how we got to see Lane's progression to being more relaxed the more time he spent with Yasmin and how he was able to let loose as he fell more in love. On the flip side, Lane was excellent at grounding Yasmin and not allowing her visions in restoring her family's wedding venue get too far out there. They were perfect foils for each other.

If there was one part that I didn't like about the story is how their relationship fell apart for their big obstacle. Because of Yasmin's brush with death, she created her Bouquet List of things she wanted to do now that she's still alive. She's never made any bones about the list, especially in explaining it to Lane but it came across that everything became Yas' fault, that she wronged everyone - from Lane to how the Palace got a bad review from the press because her ideas were implemented. I was actually starting to feel really down about the books because it felt so wrong that even Yas was blaming herself for everything going wrong but here's where I'm happy to say the ending more than made up for it. So beautifully written, it encompassed all that Lane and Yasmin went through and gave a great compromise to show that both our hero and heroine deserve and should get their HEA.

Definitely recommend this for anyone who loves a happy romp of a romance!

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