



A Wedding in Provence

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From the bestselling author of French Lessons comes a delightful and thought-provoking novel about love, family and marriage, set in the vineyards and beaches of Southern France.

What could be more idyllic than a wedding in Provence? That's what Olivia and Brody think when they invite their closest friends and family to spend their wedding weekend with them. But when Olivia's older daughter from her first marriage invites a man she met on the plane to join her, the delicate balance of the entire weekend is upset. Soon Olivia's best friend, the owner of the inn who is hosting the wedding, discovers that her husband has cheated on her. Then Brody's mother shows up without his father, who has gone into hiding. How can one choose love in the midst of chaos? Told from the point of view of Olivia and her two daughters, A Wedding in Provence is a moving novel about love, trust, secrets and family.

A Wedding in Provence Details

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Author : Ellen Sussman

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From Reader Review A Wedding in Provence for online ebook

Kimberly says

Olivia and Brody have traveled to the Provencal town of Cassis to be married. Olivia's best friend Emily runs a local country inn which is the backdrop for the story. As family gathers for the wedding, we are introduced to Olivia's daughters, Nell and Carly. Wild child Nell shows up with someone she just met on the plane on the way over. Prodigal daughter Carly arrives having just about reached her breaking point. Brody's mother, his best friend, and Emily's husband round out the rest of the guests. Every single character has a love-related problem and only the bride and groom seem the least bit happy. A line in the book reads "New love and old love. Good love and lousy love." To me this summed up the book. The novel reads easily, but it is a little emotionally heavy with all of the problems. Things end well, but I think I would have enjoyed it more had it been a little lighter.

Carrie says

This book was definitely a mixed bag. While I liked the setting and eye candy of French countryside, and I liked the premise, the writer rushed back to back dramatic incidents and quick backstory for readers as if anticipating super short attention spans, rather than taking the time to develop the characters beyond cliches. The neat resolutions of all the predicaments at the end didn't help either. There were also numerous scenarios that simply did not ring true. Call me old fashioned, but I do not know anyone who would meet a guy on a plane and take him to her mother's wedding...really? Nor get in a car with a complete stranger just because they felt attracted to them, or the fact that they were in...France! Or, get on a boat with young drunk French sailors...really? The supposed rift between the 2 sisters over a drug related high school incident felt forced, and the sum up narration of exchanges, glances, and "so glad I finally met you" type dialogue felt soap opera-esque. The 2 main characters getting married didn't convince me that they belonged together, and the rugged Wyoming man stereotype got old quickly. I can get into a good beach read, but this wasn't it.

Cheyenne Richards says

Love in all its messiness and beauty, the challenges that can come even in an idyllic spot, and a host of characters you want to wrap in a giant hug. This book broke through some of my recent 'who needs love?' cynicism -- in the best of ways.

Marilyn Heyman says

A WEDDING IN PROVENCE by Ellen Sussman

Brody and Olivia are in France planning their wedding. They are in their 50's and are excited about their new life together. They are staying with Olivia's best friend, Emily. She and her husband moved to France two years ago and are running an inn. Olivia's daughter's, Nell and Carly, are on their way to attend as well as Brody's mother and best friend, Jake. Olivia is not looking forward to their coming, knowing they will be bringing trouble with them.

Olivia has a dysfunctional family – two young women who can't seem to find what they need to make them happy. They are two sides of a coin – one frivolous and the other serious, and have a difficult time relating to each other. Can they discover a better understanding of themselves and each other? There are a lot of family dynamics throughout the story. Brody is a wonderful hero. A WEDDING IN PROVENCE is an interesting and enjoyable tale with an excellent ending.

Cathleen says

I received an ARC from the publisher through NetGalley in exchange for my honest review.

The story centers around Olivia and Brody, a couple in their fifties, who are getting married at an Inn in Provence. Emily and her husband who own the Inn are friends of Olivia. The weekend and the Inn seem like the ideal place to have their wedding celebration. They are so in love with each other.

Olivia's two daughters and Brody's best friend and his mother arrive. What started out as a wonderful weekend is suddenly emotional and tense as the guests bring problems with them. Casey shows up alone and lies about why her boyfriend isn't with her. Nell, who is still unsettled and without direction shows up with the guy that was sitting next to her on the plane. Jake, who obtained his license online and will be performing the wedding ceremony, doesn't believe in marriage. Fanny, Brody's mother is distraught as her husband of 55 years walked out of their house saying he didn't want to be with her anymore.

On top of all this drama, Emily and her French husband are fighting, seems Sebastien strayed and had an affair with someone.

Through all the drama you discover a well written story about love, family, and friends. You discover sisters who start off as strangers but end up reconnecting and forming a bond as adults. You read about second love and the joys and worries that come with it. You read about the pain, anger and hurt from infidelity and finding the ability for forgiveness.

This is such a strong story with so much going on, but it all flows so well. Ellen Sussman has written a story that engages her readers and keeps them engaged right to the end.

I look forward to reading more from this author.

Diane says

Make sure to clear your calendar when you get started on this book. You'll not want to put it down and, if you are anything like me, you'll stay up late and do everything you can to get back to this book. A Wedding in Provence is about all kinds of love - new, lost, parental, romantic, lustful, hurtful ... and Ellen Sussman captures them all beautifully. She also captures the beauty of Provence in such a way that you'll want to keep your calendar clear for vacation. You will find yourself trolling the internet for flights to France.

Lorilin says

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

This was an easy and entertaining read. The story moved along quickly, and though the book, overall, didn't have too much depth, there was enough believable relationship drama to keep me interested. The dialogue could be cliché at times, but, for the most part, I liked how the characters interacted with each other. And I did appreciate Sussman's willingness to work with some unique and somewhat random personalities. Ultimately, *A Wedding in Provence* is good for what it is: light and entertaining chick lit with a bit of drama and a neat and tidy ending.

Pamela says

I thought this would be cute and comedic but was disappointed. None of the characters were particularly sympathetic and couldn't stop thinking about themselves long enough to enjoy someone else's important moment. Even the main character, the mom bride, was a narcissist. Really wasn't much of a plot.

Beth says

Going into this book, I knew that it would be a wedding type book. I knew that it would be set in a beautiful part of France. I knew there would be some drama. I got all of that plus more. I thought that it would be focused on the wedding and less on the character development or the scenery, but I was happily wrong.

I've never been to France but Sussman makes it so easy to picture the scenery. Her writing was spectacular in this book. It's hard to picture a place that you've never been without great description and that's what I got in this book. If I ever thought I didn't want to go to France, then now I definitely do. Not only did the fabulous writing help the scenery, but it helped with the character development. With timely flashbacks to Pre-Wedding, I got to know more about the characters and see how they ended up at the end. Every character seemed to grow in their own way.

Some characters grew up; some characters grew out; and some characters grew in. Carly grew out. She was always the quiet one, but by the end she was taking up the space she finally saw that she deserved. She became selfish and impulsive. She did what she needed to do. I enjoyed watching her development and growth the most. Nell grew in. She realized it's not all about her and that she is not the only one hurting. She was always self-destructive and raw. By the end, she found out what was important to her and that she needed to work to get it. Jake, Brody's longtime best friend, didn't get a huge spot in this book but I definitely think he grew up. He had his moments where I wanted to beat him up and he had his moments where I might have high-fived him.

The greatest part about this book for me was that it was more than just a book about a wedding. It was about a family growing together while all of them are going through rough times while they are going through as awesome time. The story, for me, was more about the sisters coming together and being there for each other when they needed it most. It was more about the story of two older people finding love again after losing it before. It's about changing yourself if you don't like who you are. I went into this book thinking that it

would be a light summery beach read and I got life lesson as well, so I would call that a win.

I also enjoyed that this book was about older people falling in love. Brody and Olivia are in their 50's and are getting married in France. How perfect is that? My dad is in his late 40's and is getting married next year so I read this at the perfect time. It's nice to see a book that focuses on older people that especially older people that are starting over in a way.

Carly reminded me of Lena in Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants. She's quiet and reserved and then finally breaks out and becomes who she always wanted to be. Nell reminded me of Bridget in Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants. Lucky for me, those are my two favorite characters. I saw obvious parallels Carly and Lena; and Nell and Bridget.

I would suggest that if you're going to read this book: have google translate open if you don't know French. I only know the very basic words and there was some French in this book which I had to look up. Obviously the book is going to have some French because they are in France. I've also decided that I want to learn French but I highly doubt it would go well.

Really, this was a fantastic book and I highly plan on looking for more things by Ellen Sussman. She is a great writer and writes awesome characters. This was such a strong book that I could relate to.

Jane Stewart says

Good book, but I was upset because French sentences were not translated.

My feeling during this book was "this is a good writer." I enjoyed the group of people, the things they did, things they said. The main ideas are a mother, her best friend, her two adult daughters, and their relationships with men. They all had difficulties, problems, or losses from men they loved. The plots and conflicts are about relationships. I loved the ending. It was feel good. There is a hopefulness.

The main idea of a couple in their 50s getting married was appealing. I loved their love for each other. I would not put this in the "romance genre" because we don't watch the relationship develop. They are already in love and are waiting for wedding guests to arrive when the book begins.

The characters are not perfect. That made them interesting. I wish the author wrote more about Gavin.

WHO IS THIS BOOK FOR?

Some reviewers were unhappy about sex scenes and swearing language. Apparently they want womens fiction without that. This is not romance, but I think many romance readers will like it – those who are fine with sex and strong language and can live without relationship development if other things are good.

SEX:

There are four sex scenes with not much detail and a few other references to sex.

MY COMPLAINT:

It made me angry and I am still angry. The author used French phrases and did not translate them – at least 30 times. I'm fine with foreign phrases if the author puts the translation immediately after in parentheses. But this was not done. Each time it happened, it pulled me out of the story. I thought what am I missing? What are they saying? You'd think I would be ok since I had a semester of French in college - but that didn't help. The author did the same thing, only more of it, in her earlier book "French Lessons."

OTHER BOOK BY THIS AUTHOR:

I liked "A Wedding in Provence" better than "French Lessons."

DATA:

Narrative mode: 3rd person. Story length: 267 pages. Swearing language: strong including religious swear words but not often used. Sexual language: strong. Number of sex scenes: 4. Setting: current day Provence, France. Copyright: 2014. Genre: womens fiction.

Yaritza says

Won this book from goodreads. I really liked this book because it showed the characters true colors. I was very happy that the wedding wasn't between two young adults but two mature adults who have both been married before. There are many people who after being married once don't feel like marriage is the right route. I loved how Olivia and Brody were together at all times before their wedding as everything around them was a disaster. The two daughters Nell and Carly really were the opposites. Nell was a walking disaster and everyone knew it while Carly was a disaster, while not showing that she couldn't take her life anymore. I love how weddings bring the whole family together regardless of differences. There were moments in which you could feel the agony and pain that each character was enduring while trying to move on. This book reflects love, death, power, commitment, arguments and disagreements but they made it through it all. I recommend you pick this new release.

Karen says

I received a complimentary ebook from NetGalley in exchange for my honest review. All opinions are my own.

I really enjoyed this story and enjoyed about 95% of this book. The story is of Olivia and Brody - both in their mid 50's and single. The book takes place during their wedding weekend and includes the meshing of Olivia's daughters with Brody's mom, and a small grouping of very close friends.

Olivia and Brody are madly in love, but their friends and family all have personal struggles they are dealing with over the weekend.

I really enjoyed how the character point of view changed with each chapter to prevent the story from getting stale. The downside to this book - use of the f-bomb and a love scene that was just a little too much for my taste.

Overall, a good book and worth the read.

Nancy says

An Idyllic Inn, A Wedding, and the Stress of Old and new Relationships

Olivia and Brody, a couple in their fifties, are getting married at Emily's Olivia's best friend's, inn in Provence. When they arrive the setting is perfect. They're very much in love. It seems like a perfect weekend.

Then family and friends arrive: Olivia's two daughters, Brody's best friend, Jake, and Brody's mother, Fanny. Each brings problems. Casey, the good daughter, is upset because her boyfriend didn't come. Nell, the wayward daughter, invites a guy she meets on the plane to come to the wedding. Jake, who will do the wedding ceremony, doesn't believe in marriage. Fanny is distraught. Her husband of fifty-five years left her without an explanation. In addition, Emily and her French husband Sebastian, are having marital difficulties.

If you like romance, you'll like this book. The characters hold your interest. Olivia and her daughters are very real. My only criticism is that Brody seems too good to be true. He allows Olivia to deal with her daughters' traumas without becoming involved or upset. He's just there for her.

This is a story about the importance of love, particularly the love of family and close friends. It has a heart warming ending. I enjoyed it.

I reviewed this book for Net Galley.

Lisa D - Sassy Cat Chat says

I have to say that A Wedding in Provence by Ellen Sussman was not my favorite read. Luckily, it was a fast read so I did finish the book.

I was expecting something light and easy however this book just had no "umph" whatsoever. I was okay that the story line was predictable but I was disappointed in the complete lack of plot.

I found the characters to be flat and dull. There was simply no development at all.

The little bit of tension among the characters and conflict seemed to be out of left field. There was no rhyme or reason to how or why a character felt a certain way - the author just put it all out there blatantly and it felt unsubstantiated and shallow.

I really like a quick, enjoyable read but the novel needs to have likable characters, an and interesting story line. Sadly, A Wedding in Provence fell short.

Mary says

I received a copy of this book for free from NetGalley in exchange for my honest opinion. I typically enjoy chick-lit. French chick-lit is even better. This book made me wish for 1 thing. A friend who owns an inn in Provence with a seemingly endless supply of wine. The story was entertaining, yet the daughters Nell and Carly took turns irritating me. Nell lusted after anything in pants. Carly wanted to be a bad girl. Eh. The rest of the characters played their part fairly well, if a bit on the cliché side. The two people I'd have liked to get to know better were Sebastien and his wife Emily.

The best part was the Provence setting....the lush French countryside and the breathtaking scenery, the food, the local flavor. The rest of it was pale by comparison.

This book was ok. Just ok. When we got to the end and everything was wrapped up in a big lavender bow I was ready for something new. Not a bad read, but not "magnifique" either.

