



Previously Engaged

Elodia Strain

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

Previously Engaged

Elodia Strain

Previously Engaged Elodia Strain

Annabelle Pleasanton has just been given the chance of a lifetime: A \$50,000 Dream Wedding. The only problem? She's not technically, 100 percent, all-the-way engaged. Her best friend has seen the ring, and her boyfriend has been dropping all kinds of hints but something seems to be keeping him from popping the question. With interference from all sides, including exciting new job opportunities, eccentric relatives, and ex-high-school-sweethearts, Annabelle begins to wonder if she'll ever get married. In this hilarious sequel to *Icing on the Cake* Annabelle navigates the crazy, often chaotic twists of life and love and learns some very important lessons along the way about what really matters most.

Previously Engaged Details

Date : Published January 1st 2009 by Cedar Fort

ISBN : 9781599552514

Author : Elodia Strain

Format : Paperback 292 pages

Genre : Lds, Lds Fiction, Romance, Christianity, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Contemporary, Fiction

 [Download Previously Engaged ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Previously Engaged ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Previously Engaged Elodia Strain

From Reader Review Previously Engaged for online ebook

Deborah says

Cute!!!

Kathy * Bookworm Nation says

As soon as I finished *Icing on the Cake* last week I jumped on the internet and ordered *Previously Engaged*. I was so excited when it arrived today and quickly curled up in my favorite reading spot eager to see what happens with Annabelle and Isaac in this installment. Annabelle is just the same: smart, caring, hardworking girl who tends to get in embarrassing situations. There were a few times I caught myself laughing and I admit I loved reading about Annabelle and her misadventures. I do really like Isaac; there are times where he just sweeps you off your feet! He can be very romantic and thoughtful. Other times...I wanted to smack him! I suppose that is the effect the author was going for, but really he drove me crazy at times. I also noticed (and I could be wrong), but it seems like in both books Annabelle ends up apologizing and Isaac ends up forgiving...I keep waiting for him to do some apologizing of his own. He makes some mistakes along the way, and doesn't always stick up for Annabelle like I would like, but deep down you know that he really loves Annabelle. I guess I would have liked to hear him admit or acknowledge that he's messed up along the way as well. ANYWAY, I'll climb down from my soap box and end by saying that I really enjoyed this one, nearly as much as the first. It has the same warm-fuzzy feelings that the first book had and I really recommend it to anyone who likes fun romantic comedies. I look forward to seeing what Strain writes next!

Marcia Mickelson says

I've been so excited to read *Previously Engaged* by Elodia Strain. I read Strain's debut novel, *The Icing on the Cake*, and have been anticipating this sequel.

I love Annabelle Pleasanton, the hilarious, quirky, always-getting-out-of scrapes main character. She is dating Isaac Matthews, and she gets the feeling that he's going to propose. He asks her ring size and hints that she should get a short lease on an apartment, but Annabelle keeps waiting for it to happen. In the meantime, she wins a \$50,000 "Dream Wedding." Although he hasn't technically proposed yet, Annabelle begins to plan her "Dream Wedding."

There are a few obstacles keeping her from that dream wedding. First, there's Alex who dumped her at the prom, but seems to have had second thoughts. Then, there's Chloe, Isaac's agent, whom everyone seems to think is perfect for him. There's also the fact that Isaac is not into the high end designer suit and fancy food that her dream wedding require. To top it all off, an amazing job offer threatens to come between Annabelle and Isaac.

This is a funny, laugh-out-loud story about a very endearing woman. Through this first-person account, I felt like I really knew Annabelle. Strain's comical and crisp writing style brings the reader into the story like you're listening to your best friend and rooting for her to get out of the awkward situations she manages to get into.

Despite Annabelle's penchant for designer bargains, beneath that cashmere sweater, is a huge heart. She writes "Pink Notes" in a notebook which contains lists of people who inspire her. Amongst her "Pink Notes" are women who run a flower business and bakery whose proceeds go to charity. Inside, Annabelle knows what's important in life and it's a fun ride reading as she makes meaningful decisions with that \$50,000 she won.

I love a story that makes me laugh and inspires me at the same time. Elodia Strain's *Previously Engaged* is that story. You'll find a well-written book with fleshed-out characters who feel real. Funny dialogue and interior monologue accompany this gem. With her clever writing style, Strain has composed a charming book that makes me want to read the next book she has to offer.

Ashley says

Hmm, ditto.

292 pages; 2010 total: 15872

Oh, what a cute book! The sequel to *Icing on the Cake*, which I have to say I can't really remember too much about. I remember it was cute and I liked it, but as far as the rest goes... anyway. From what I do remember, I like this one better. There are some seriously funny things in here, and quite a few times I caught myself laughing out loud. Once Adalyn came up to me and looked at the page I was reading and said, "I don't see any funny words on there!" because I was just laughing like crazy. What I love about these books is that I just can not put them down. It was a tough weekend with David not working, let me tell you :) Anyways, it's a perfect chick-flick type book with the gooey happily-ever-after that I just love so much. Thanks Beth!!

292 pages, 5372 pages

Tristi says

When I reviewed Elodia Strain's breakout novel "*The Icing on the Cake*," I was highly entertained. But now, with the sequel "*Previously Engaged*," I'm absolutely delighted. Strain has taken her talent, which was considerable before, and honed it, creating a story that had me smiling all the way through.

Annabelle Pleasanton has been happily dating hunky Isaac since the end of the first book, and now it appears that he's getting ready to propose. He's been dropping hints like crazy and even asked her ring size. When she's sent to a bridal fair as an assignment for her job, she thinks nothing of filling out a drawing slip for the wedding of her dreams. After all, it's not like she's really going to win, right? But she does win, and there's the slight catch that Isaac hasn't actually proposed yet. But she's sure he will, any minute, and so it's all right to move forward with wedding plans. Because it's free, and she'll be engaged soon, and so life's good.

But then something totally unexpected happens. Alex, the guy who broke her heart seven years before, shows up and wants her back in his life. To make things worse, he's her new boss at work. He gives her a promotion and a huge raise, telling her that he's sorry for everything and wants to give things another try. Is Isaac dragging his feet on this proposal for a reason? What if Alex is really sincere this time?

Annabelle is a character we can all relate to. She's pretty, but not model-skinny. She's charming, but she's not stuck-up or overly confident. She's a little bit clumsy, has a lot of personality, and doesn't mind sharing her innermost thoughts with us, her readers. With characters like this, the author has a bright career ahead of her and I can't wait to see what she publishes next.

Kimberly VanderHorst says

The word that comes to mind after reading this book is "delight." I don't know when I was last so thoroughly entertained, though I'm sure my family would complain given the chance due to my many load bursts of laughter and/or cackling. Though light-hearted and humorous this book has some surprising elements of depth that I found thought-provoking. And while the main character seemed chronically prone to embarrassing situations, I found myself wanting to be like her in certain respects. Overall, very deserving of a five star rating and I highly recommend it.

Rebecca Irvine says

I have been looking forward to the release of Elodia Strain's new book *Previously Engaged*. I really enjoyed her first book *The Icing on the Cake*, to which *Previously* is a sequel. Strain's uncle's cousin's wife's (something or other relative) lives in my ward and chose *Icing* as a book for our RS book club. And when I heard from the self-same relative that a sequel was on the way I knew I would be buying it.

The story line of these two books follows character Annabelle Pleasanton, a magazine journalist with a love for affordable fashion and delicious food. In *Icing* Annabelle falls for handsome Isaac Matthews, a free-lance photographer with a fear of relationships. At the start of *Previously* Annabelle and Isaac have now been dating for nine months and it appears a proposal may be coming soon. When Annabelle wins a \$50,000 wedding package things appear to be going better than she ever dreamed. But complications arise in the reappearance of an old boyfriend and a job promotion.

The thing I love best about Strain's writing is Annabelle's accessibility. She is really easy to relate to and often talks to her readers. For example, this paragraph is a good example of similar comments sprinkled throughout the book:

"Okay, reader, you and I know I didn't exactly walk into the room. But now didn't really seem the time to tell Isaac about how I stormed in and started chucking beauty products. All in due time my friend; all in due time."

Most of the time it is as though Strain is able to read my mind as a reader and these comments readily connect with me and make Annabelle endearing.

Additionally, Strain's writing is very funny. There are several laugh-out-loud situations in both *Icing* and *Previously* (my most favorite one in *Previously* is Annabelle getting clonked on the head by a female hockey player when trying to catch her best friend's wedding bouquet!). I know I will be reading both of these books again in the future on days when I need a little pick me up.

In fact, the only thing I did not like much about *Previously* was the cover; not that it is bad, but it lacks the brightness Annabelle Pleasanton's character deserves. The cover of *Icing* was much better.

Neita says

This book and Icing on the Cake have been some of my favorites. I like the way she writes. It's like I'm talking only she's funnier.

Emily says

Cute, fluffy comedy of errors, quick read. Perfect for a long cross-country flight with three young children...it could be read with very little mental exertion in small chunks without losing the thread of the storyline. Annabelle is fairly annoying sometimes, but mostly in a roll-your-eyes-and-move-on kind of way. Some of the situations she gets herself in to are just unbelievable - real people just don't act that way! - but I guess that's the "charm" the author was going for. None of the stock characters was particularly deep or memorable. Isaac, the eventual fiance, was rather insensitive and clueless despite good intentions. I found it kind of hard to root for him. But I couldn't believe that Annabelle would fall for Alex's completely over-the-top wooing that obviously had ulterior motives. Of course all is sorted out appropriately in the end, the bad boyfriend/girlfriend-stealing characters get their comeuppance, and everyone lives happily ever after.

I appreciated the lack of language and sex, fairly standard for LDS romance, but nice all the same.

Wish I'd known about some of these charitable-type wedding companies (florists, cake decorators, etc.) when I got married. We did a fairly simple, stripped-down version of an LDS wedding, but I still hated spending as much money as we did.

For more book reviews, come visit my blog, [Build Enough Bookshelves](#).

Laura says

I am a fan of LDS "Chick Lit" to which this novel is a definite example. This book has been on my "to read" list at my local library for about three years. Finally got my hands on it.

Annabelle Pleasanton is a twenty-five year old single, LDS gal who suffered a traumatic (for her) heart break at the hands of her then boyfriend and has not really gotten past that experience to move on in her life. That said, she does have a current boyfriend who has been hinting at proposing sometime soon but hasn't yet "popped the question".

She wins a drawing for a \$50,000 wedding with all the trimmings. The problem is she is not engaged when she wins the prize. Isaac, her seemingly reluctant suitor, does come through with a terrific proposal scenario and problems begin when Isaac is finally told about her great grand prize status and is not particularly impressed.

In the meantime, former heart-breaker boyfriend, Alex returns to the scene of his crime, as it were, and among other things, offers Annabelle a high paying job working for him that causes multiple problems for Annabelle and Isaac.

The LDS culture and life-style are present in the story but someone wouldn't need to be familiar with those culture-specific situations in order to enjoy this read. I actually found myself laughing out loud a couple of times at Annabelle's antics.

One thing I would like to have read more about was the qualities in Annabelle that Isaac found so appealing to him. The author could have spent a bit more time making a case for why Isaac feels the way he does about her. That said, I did enjoy this read even if I sometimes felt I wanted to shake the heroine and tell her to grow up.

Patti says

I think the author was trying to be funny too much of the time which ended up being a little annoying. That, plus the fact that the heroine kept getting into utterly ridiculous situations made me give this three stars instead of the four that I wished I could have given it. Still, it was a quick no-brainer read, and I liked it nonetheless.

Shelah says

Previously Engaged is another Shopaholic wannabe, right down to the obsession with designer clothes and shoes. Or maybe it's Bridget Jones, with the job in publishing and the two guys-- one her boss and the other one a little less polished, but perfect for her. Whatever it is, it's not original.

Previously Engaged just has SO many little things that bugged me. Maybe it was Strain's mixing up of "your" and "you're" or her use of "I" when she should have said "me" (basic grammar here, folks!). Maybe it was the fact that Annabelle Pleasanton was only twenty-five but up for an editor-in-chief position for a magazine. Maybe it was the fact that her twenty-four year old sister managed to have a four-year-old, a toddler, and a license in counseling (was she Doogie Howser?). Maybe it was the "Peach Pit"-style hangout down the street from Pleasanton's office that carried endless variations of hot chocolate and sticky buns, all with ridiculously saccharine surfer names like "riptide" and "billabong." Maybe it was the fact that she exhausted just about every single cliché about funky new-Age Northern Californians in Pleasanton's best friend Carrie, all in the first chapter (from her health food store, to her tea-dyed wedding napkins, to her yoga breathing-- you name it, it's in there). I didn't find Pleasanton cute, or charming. In fact, I wanted to warn the would-be fiancé Isaac to run the other direction because this girl wasn't going to bring him much but a huge Mastercard bill.

I know that I've talked here and there during this Whitney process about the writers' treatment of their religion in their novels. We've had situations where the characters weren't Mormon, situations where the main characters were Mormon, and situations where supporting characters were Mormon but the main characters weren't. We've also had cases where it was ambiguous. In *Previously Engaged*, it's easy for a Mo to spot a Mo, and Annabelle and her family are definitely Mo. They talk about church, they don't drink, they talk once or twice about having a small religious ceremony for the upcoming wedding. And here's where you'll see me get all sanctimonious, because even though the book is all about weddings and marriage and happily ever afters, neither the bride nor the groom ever mentions the temple or eternity, even though it's sort of an unstated given that the wedding is going to take place there. We hear a LOT about flowers and dresses and canapés, but nothing about covenants. And I just find that bizarre. Strain also makes me feel like all of the residents of Northern California are quietly understated Mormons, just like Annabelle. Every character,

from the publisher who went to Columbia to the girl with the Jewish last name, are apparently Mormons.

Finally, the one thought-provoking part of *Previously Engaged* came when both Annabelle and Isaac (seriously, do you know anyone over the age of 10 named Annabelle or Isaac?) both had fantastic opportunities in their careers, in opposite sides of the California coast, and they had to decide whether they'd both go for their careers or one of them would forfeit work for love. The characters are 24, so old enough to be out of college for a couple of years (apparently not smart enough, however, to know, that editors of regional magazines don't get 250K salaries and beachfront homes as a matter of course), but not really old enough to be established in their careers. And since we as Mormons tend to marry young and have kids young, we also tend to do some deferring and compromising in terms of our career plans (said by someone who went to the hospital to have her first baby straight from handing in the last paper for her MA), and I think that's something that deserves some careful consideration in the Mormon publishing world, even though it doesn't really get it here.

Valerie Waters says

This was pretty cute. I was happy with the way it ended!

Stacy says

Such a cute little book. Annabelle's the kind of character you can really relate with. Well, that I can relate with. Except for winning something. The only thing I ever got from a contest were tickets to a movie that a DJ gave me because he overheard me say I'd never won anything and felt sorry for me. But I digress. Annabelle ended up with the right guy. My favorite line was at the end, "...kissed me like a man who had been away at war..."
Loved it!!!

Beth says

I reread this book immediately after my reread of *Icing on the Cake*. Laughed out loud at the "Flesh Ripper" part again, even though I knew it was coming. This read is just plain fun!

I've been anxiously awaiting the release of this book ever since its predecessor, *The Icing on the Cake*, came out. I read *Icing* because I knew and loved the author (Elodia Strain was in my ward at BYU) — but *Engaged* I read because I knew and loved Annabelle.

Fictional Annabelle Pleasanton is candid with her audience (us readers), a little accident prone, and, well, downright hilarious. A sweetheart with a sweet tooth, she's aptly named as she's always looking for the pleasantness in others and recording those good deeds in her "Pink Notes" notebook; she's a girl who's obviously got her heart in the right place. But when Annabelle gets starry-eyed over the possibilities of a perfect wedding (and a perfect job lined up for her happily-ever-after), things start slipping out of place.

I was about three-fourths of the way through this book when I giddily realized I truly had no idea how things

were going to turn out. This was a surprise, since books of this type usually equate happy endings to obvious ones. While I had no doubt that I would be treated to a happy ending (for this definitely is a happy, light-hearted, fun book), I didn't know with whom that happy ending would belong — and I loved the mild suspense.

And I couldn't review this book without talking about the humor. Maybe it's just that this is slightly out of my typical sober genre, but I rarely get to read anything this funny! I was smiling at the way Elodia crafted the sentences and paragraphs, enjoying the funny details that kept cropping up (like Annabelle's disdain for lime green — can't say I blame her). There were lines that made me laugh out loud, and the part about Annabelle's imaginary guard dog, Flesh Ripper, actually sent me into a fit of giggles.

A feel-good read that I could hardly put down. I sure hope Elodia's planning on writing more; it's a real treat to read a book that makes me laugh and reminds me about what's truly important in life.
