



## Bon Appétit

*Sandra Byrd*

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**Bon Appetit** Sandra Byrd  
**Pastries, Paris and romance—Lexi's adventure has just begun!**

Lexi Stuart is risking it all. Saying *au revoir* to the security of home, her job, and could-be boyfriend Dan, Lexi embarks on a culinary adventure in France to fulfill her life dream of becoming a pastry chef.

As she settles into her new home in the village of *Presque le Chateau* to study and work in a local bakery, her twenty-something optimism meets resistance in the seemingly crusty nature of the people and culture around her. Determined to gain her footing, she finds a church, meets a new friend, and makes the acquaintance of a child named Celine—as well as Celine’s attractive, widowed father, Philippe. Even Patricia, the gruff pastry cook, shows a softer side as she mentors Lexi in the art of baking.

As Lexi lives her dream, the only thing she has to do is choose from the array in life’s patisserie display window: her familiar home, friends, and family in Seattle or her new life in France. Lexi discovers that as she leans more on God the choices become a little clearer—and making them, well, *c'est la vie!*

## **Bon Appetit Details**

Date : Published September 16th 2008 by Waterbrook Press

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Author : Sandra Byrd

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## From Reader Review Bon Appetit for online ebook

### Anne (Booklady) Molinarolo says

Sweet story, but a bit too many Bible verses in it for my comfort.

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### writer... says

This French Twist series intensifies the Parisienne influence for Lexi and for all descriptive patisserie items for this reader! Ms Byrd adds to the influence of France on the world's palate! This story can certainly be read as stand alone, as Ms Byrd does make the connecting links for any mentions or references to book 1, Let Them Eat Cake.

Culinary school struggles, cultural resistance to outsiders, homesickness, just some of the hurdles Lexi must overcome to make the most of her life dreams of France.

An absolute delight to read this 2nd in the French Twist series. Lexi's life in Paris is painted realistically, connecting us further with this spunky young woman following her dreams. A couple delicious romances to keep us guessing and a sweet young friend who bridges the relational gap, bringing Lexi unexpected joys. J'adore!

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### Kat says

this series is epic! I mean, cooking, romance, God....what more is there? Well written and easily likable. This is one of my favorite series!

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### Harvee says

Bon Appetit reads like a memoir but is a light and entertaining work of fiction about an aspiring chef from Seattle who travels to France to work in bread and pastry bakeries in the village of Presque le Chateau. Throw in some recipes, descriptions of trips to Paris and Versailles, a budding love affair that could turn into a love triangle, and you have a Bon Appetit of a book!

I copied the recipes for french Onion Soup and Simple Apple Galettes and promised myself to try them. There is also a tempting recipe for Chocolate Truffles which sounds very easy to whip up!

Bon Appetit is the second in a series of three novels with chef Lexi Stuart. The first, Let Them Eat Cake, is set in Seattle, and the third, also in Seattle, will continue the saga of Lexi's love life and her development as a bread and pastry chef.

This is also the first "religious" novel I've ever read. The main character prays regularly and relies on quotations from the New Testament to carry her through the ups and down of her culinary internship in

France.

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### **Laura says**

Sweet, quick read.

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### **Deidrah says**

I like the series. The descriptions of France were great, having never been there I appreciate the detail she put into them. I like that, despite the fact we are on a different continent in this second book, characters from the first kept popping up. The relationship with Phillippe and Celine was nice as was the complication that Daniel's arrival threw into the mix. I like the recipes but feel they could have been at the beginning or end of the chapter, not in the middle. Now for the things I didn't like. The matter of the sabotage was underplayed too much. It should either have been more important or left out all together. There needs to be more "sense" descriptions. We know what she sees but not touches, smells, or, most importantly, tastes. Lexi comes across as a much younger woman partially because she is so self absorbed. We rarely see her empathize with other characters. This goes for her relationship with God as well. It is easy to see how this happened because the book was written from her point of view but she spends very little time thinking about others. I will read the third book in the series as I find it a light enjoyable read.

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### **Sumeetha Manikandan says**

This one of the readable books I downloaded on Kindle Unlimited. Though it is a second novel in the French Twist series, it was easy to follow the story. Lexi is in France to learn to be a Pastry chef. Her employer enrolls her in a prestigious pastry school and while she goes to school she also works at the village bakery. I loved the food descriptions and the recipes that suddenly popped out of the novel. The ideal place to read this book is at a bakery! You could devour cake after cake as you turn the pages!

The plot is simple and sweet. Lexi's pastry school is very demanding and wants to make her the best pastry chef ever. Lonely in a foreign country where people are unfriendly in the beginning, Lexi finds solace in the friendship of Celine, her employer's motherless daughter. Philippe, her employer is a widower who is interested in dating her but complication arrives in the form of Dan, Lexi's lawyer friend. Lexi is in a dilemma and she tries to seek Christ's help in deciding which man to fall in love with...

I liked the setting and the background of the story and subtle way it flowed through. Sandra Byrd's French country life seems very idyllic and I have since marked it as a one of the places to visit in my bucket list. Sandra's language is smooth and lucid.

[Click here to read the rest of the review](#)

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### **Renee says**

Following on the heels of Let Them Eat Cake, Book 2 in the French Twist series Bon Appetit is just as good—if not better! Picking up almost immediately where Let Them Eat Cake leaves off we once again follow Lexi, this time in France. If you're like me you expect a book set near Paris to be fun and this book definitely is. It still has that chick lit feel so there isn't loads of romance. I could definitely see the change in Lexi which is must in a series that follows a character book to book. I love to see characters grow and evolve, if they don't things getting rather boring rather quickly. The relationships that Lexi establishes are intriguing to say the least. I can honestly say I have no idea if Lexi is ever going to find Prince Charming. Unpredictability isn't something you come across everyday when reading Christian fiction so that's why I adored this book!

\*I received a complimentary copy of this book for review from the publisher/author. 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.\*

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### **Angie Hay says**

“...whichever family you were from, it is a vitriol part of your life” –Mario Batali

Listened to this by Audible. Reader was excellent! She portrayed the perfect French accent and language.

The beauty of these reads is that it helps remind me how I was brought up and the Faith that I have but sometimes slip up and life takes over.

Lexi is working for a French Bakery in Seattle and the owner offered a job to her to take in Paris to work for his sister's bakery and meanwhile they will put her through school so she can potentially be the next owner of the new bakery they are looking to open in Seattle. But she has to pass first! Lexi goes to the Lord and asks for help. She puts trust in him and comes to the conclusion that this opportunity is perfect! So, Lexi goes off to PARIS! But she has a somewhat steady relationship with Dan, they both agree that it would be best for her to chase her dreams and if it was meant to be, then they will soon be together again. What a great boyfriend, huh? Maybe, maybe not. As she gets her surroundings in her new pad that is a rental from the bakery owner, she finds that French people aren't as friendly as she thought. As she gets acclimated at the new job she gets to know the people and one in particular, Phillippe. Lexi is confused about her relationship with Dan and the potential relationship with Phillippe. It becomes a small drama in her life because the big drama is at school. She finds out that a student at the bakery school is sabotaging the baked goods that she is making to pass the course. She is adding random items (i.e. butter, salt, sugar, oil) which plays a major role on bread and how it rises. Lexi and Ann (her new friend) notice that she is not only doing it to her baked goods, but everyone else's. This could be detrimental to their chance to pass the course and get their degree!

Sweet, lovely story. A light refresher for the summer!

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### **Ruth says**

This Christian Chick-lit novel is about what you'd expect from the genre--a quick sweet read, with a splash of romance and some religion thrown in. Lexi is from Seattle and works for a French family-owned bakery. They send her to France for a year to study at a famous culinary school, and to work in their bakery there. She leaves behind Dan, an attorney to whom she is beginning to become attached. While in France she becomes close to Phillippe, one of the owning family, and his young daughter. The resolution of that particular part of the plot has to wait until the next book in the series. We follow Lexi through her year of school and learn a little about French baking. The book even includes a few recipes. Besides French cooking, she learns about France and the French. She makes friends and tries to be a good Christian witness to these French folks who, though nominally Catholic, don't really practice any religion. She works her way through John's Gospel in the book and we read a few of her reflections on it, so I'd say that if religion in a book turns you off, there is probably enough of it here to do that.

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### **Mel says**

enjoyed the story but it was. so . slow. Not sure if I can handle reading the next one if it goes that slow.

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### **Tatiana Lammers says**

It was not a bad book to read - nice and light, with a bit of Christian theme and several cooking recipes. I thought it could've been better if the recipes were not incorporated into the story but added in the appendix.

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### **Jeffrey says**

Do you like good food? Do you like romance? Are you a Francophile? Bon Appetit, by Sandra Byrd, neatly packages up these three treats into a delightful and revelatory look at the demanding world of surviving a classic French baking/pastry academy.

Our ambitious young heroine, Lexi Stuart, does just that as she leaves the French family owned bakery in her hometown of Seattle for the military-like training of a baking school south of Paris. Being naturally friendly and sociable, she struggles with the initially closed and abrupt nature of the French People. Initially, she is excessively homesick and lonely as she seeks friendships at the academy and especially the village bakery, owned by the same family as the one in Seattle.

Lexi finally befriends Anne, who is also a student from Normandy. She also meets and loves Celine, the daughter of Phillippe, a widower and future heir to the upscale bakery chain. Here begins a subtle triangle for her affections between Phillippe and Dan, her attorney boyfriend in Seattle.

The depictions of Paris, Versailles, the French landscape, weather, the French themselves and their food are so authentic that the author appears to have "been there and done that." Narrated in the first person and so vividly detailed, it reads more like a memoir than a novel.

Ordinarily, I do NOT like a book series that must all be read in their entirety for a complete resolution of the plot because none of the books can stand alone as a singular work. However, I'll make an exception here because there is enough of a resolution to give the story a measure of completeness.

This reviewer was unaware that he had the first book in the trilogy, *Let Them Eat Cake*, already residing on his overloaded Kindle. What a delightful, quiet, yet compelling story of Godly faith overlooked, regained, and prayers answered. The story is wholesome enough for the young adults in your family to read and enjoy also.

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### **Nancy says**

#### **Visit France the easy way**

Lexi wants to be a pastry chef and is thrilled to be in France working and going to school. She is lonely though until she makes friends and is surprised by some US visitors. I felt like I had gone to France myself after reading this book. Enjoy!

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### **Katie says**

This is the 2nd book in Byrd's series, but it's been 2 years since I read the first one and I didn't remember a lot. This is all to say, I don't really think this series HAS to be read in order. But if you are a series fetish-ist, by all means disagree with me.

I liked this book. It's Christian fiction but doesn't necessarily read like it. This is good and bad. If you want to read Christian fiction, you might be a little frustrated with this book. If you don't want to read it, you might not like the way it pops up in the story.

Here's what I really liked: the main character is believable and awesome. I liked that she traveled to France, away from her friends and family, to follow her dreams. I really enjoyed reading about her life in a small town in France, her visits to Paris, and her life as a culinary student and baker.

I do like Christian fiction and was telling a friend of mine that the drawback to this book was that the author seemed to get caught up in writing the real story and then remembers, "oh, yeah, I need to write about the Bible". To me it was not a seamless part of the narrative but something the author had to work to remember. Other than that, I really enjoyed this book and will read the third in the series. I give it an 8/10.

-k

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### **Brenda says**

*Bon Appetit* is the second book in the French Twist series, and continues the adventures of Lexi. In this book she travels to a city right outside Paris and attends a cooking school there while working in the family bakery of her previous boss from Seattle, Luc. It was nice reading this again after having the background from the first book. It was actually enjoyable and could be read either way, but background info is always nice.

While Lexi is in France she meets Phillippe and his daughter Celeste. Phillippe is part of the family at the bakery. I totally fell in love with them the first time around, and even more so this time. Forget old boyfriend in Seattle, France is where it's at! I'm very interested to see where things go in the third novel, which released

today, but I'd just like to say for the record that I'm team Phillippe.

I can't wait to read the third novel of the series, but I'm very sad that it'll be ending. I've come to love Sandra Byrd as an author, and I hope to read more adult books of hers in the future! I rate this one a big 5/5, and would recommend it no matter what you like to read. A very sweet and engaging book!

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## **Andrea Cox says**

by Andrea Renee Cox

This is a difficult review for me to write. The rating is no easier to decide upon. While I enjoyed the journey Lexi went on in this book, there were a few content issues that, sadly, dragged down my level of enjoyment. If I read the third book in this series, it will only be to see what the finale of Lexi's journey will be.

Things I liked:

- \* The characters were unique and creative. I loved how they played well off each other, whether it be in positive or negative ways.
- \* The setting. Who wouldn't want to live and work in France? That would be quite lovely. The streets of Paris and surrounding villages really came alive in this story.
- \* Bakeries. Though I don't fancy myself talented enough to work in a bakery like Lexi did, getting to see the ins and outs of a few different bakeries was really a great treat. (Pun intended.) The descriptions of the breads and desserts were really wonderful, and I particularly liked the inclusion of several delicious-sounding recipes. I might just have to try some.
- \* This quote: "Happiness shared is doubled and sadness shared is halved, we say." Swoon-worthy awesomeness right there. I wish everything in this book could have been so sweet.

Things I didn't like:

- \* There was a hint of someone being homosexual. This always annoys me, but especially in Christian fiction, because I think it is so inappropriate in that category. It turns out the character wasn't homosexual, but why even give a hint at that type of immoral behavior in a Christian fiction book? This is reason enough for me to stop reading a particular author, and it is the reason why I am undecided about reading the third book in this trilogy.
- \* Alcohol and tobacco usage.
- \* Unmarried live-ins were spoken of (including a pre-marital pregnancy). The lead female (who was a Christian) even spoke of considering living with a guy prior to marriage. This was unexpected, a little shocking, and unnecessary to the plot.
- \* There was mention of an obscene gesture, though the character refrained from using it. It was quite obvious what the gesture was, and I found it rather disappointing that it would even be mentioned. Why go there?

I'm disappointed in this book more than I enjoyed it. I would have given two stars (which means "it was okay"), but the hint-at-homosexual thing was just too much.

I was not compensated for my honest review.

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## **Emily F says**

### **Great Parisian Treat**

This was a really fun and sweet read! The protagonist is in Paris and we get to follow her on her adventures with the culture, her school, and her faith. The faith elements were evident throughout the story and key to the progression of the plot. If Christian themes aren't your thing, I would pass on this book, which is unfortunate, as this is a fun book. The romance was still kind of there, the love triangle was okay. I would rate this PG. I was a little disappointed that we'd had all this leadup to one of the culinary students being involved in sketchy things only to have a soft follow-up that didn't satisfy me (and didn't make the most sense).

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### **Bluerose's Heart says**

Lexi gets the opportunity of a lifetime! She's going to France to study cooking and work in Luc's family's bakery. This doesn't come without a price, though! She's leaving her family and friends. It's especially difficult being away from her best friend, as things progress very quickly with her boyfriend. Lexi feels guilty not being there for her. Then there's Dan. Lexi doesn't know if she's leaving something special uncovered or not.

While in France, Lexi meets new people and friends. She even meets a little girl that she actually likes(she's not a kid person, to say the least). Plus, a new man enters her life.

I liked *Let Them Eat Cake*. It was fun and cute. It's with this book, *Bon Appetit*, though, that I fell in love with the series. I adored that it was set in France. I gained a better appreciation of the culture over there. You will learn the difference between preservatives and preservatifs! ;) I appreciated that laugh!

Lexi now has two amazing guys in her life, and I honestly didn't have a clue who she would end up with as the story ended. I enjoyed seeing Lexi's spiritual growth, and even passing that growth on to others. It was fun to see her thaw out many of the cold shoulders she encountered, and even strengthening her relationships with friends and family.

As I mentioned yesterday, once again there was recipes throughout this book. I have quite a few of them bookmarked!

Overall, I loved *Bon Appetit*, and jumped right into the next book.

\*I was provided a review copy in exchange for my honest opinion.

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## **Lorraine says**

Lexi Stuart is risking it all. Saying au revoir to the security of home, her job, and could be boyfriend Dan, Lexi embarks on a culinary adventure in France to fulfill her life dream of becoming a pastry chef.

I am the first to admit modern christian romance is not my favorite genre, but Sandra Byrd's second book in

the French Twist series captivated me as much as the first. Filled with great characters who feel like they could be good friends, a wonderful faith thread, and a good plot with a touch of mystery, I thoroughly enjoyed the continued adventures of Lexi in her dream to become a true French pastry chef. Byrd's descriptions of the sights of Paris as seen through Lexi's eyes, her marvelous descriptions of the french pastries and confections (as well as the included recipes), and a storyline that left me wondering what will happen to Lexi and her relationships with Dan and Phillippe when she returns to Seattle. I look forward to reading Book 3 in this series.

FAVORITE QUOTES: "...my life the past year had taught me that I never knew exactly what was ahead but that God had good plans, in the midst of pain, for all his children."

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