



All Dressed Up in Love: A March Wedding Story

Ruth Logan Herne

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They've helped orchestrate the perfect day for countless couples. Now twelve new couples will find themselves in the wedding spotlight in the second Year of Weddings novella collection.

Greg Elizondo hadn't bargained for this. Any of this.

Satin. Lace. Tulle. Pearl inlay, embroidered bodices, and Swarovski crystals.

The bridal shop business it took his mother three decades to build, the enterprise that covered his university and law degrees in full, was struggling because he might be part-genius when it came to contract law . . . But corset-style gowns with a mermaid flair? Shoot me now.

Tara Simonetti hated law school, but loved the community grant funding her presence at Temple University's esteemed school of law. She could not fail. Would not fail. But when a notice for bridal store help appeared on the community notice board, Tara applied for the job immediately. While grants and loans helped pave her way, money for food was scarce. Legal precedence, moot court, and judicial clerking all had their place, but they were nothing compared to Alcenon lace, tucked silk skirts, and a well-placed peplum.

Greg had grabbed her help as the act of a desperate man. Within weeks, he was desperate again, this time to win her heart. But after using community funds to get her degree, how can Tara turn her back on the people who helped finance her goal?

But if she leaves Philadelphia and Greg to return to her small-town in northern Pennsylvania, she'll be leaving her heart behind. A heart he won, fair and square by posting a help wanted notice on the coffee shop board . . . A heart that filled the missing niche in his mother's acclaimed bridal store. A heart Greg longed to cherish forevermore.

All Dressed Up in Love: A March Wedding Story Details

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From Reader Review All Dressed Up in Love: A March Wedding Story for online ebook

Claudia Aroni says

A quick read but definitely not my thing

Heather says

He's a lawyer who recently lost his mother and is left with her wedding dress business. She's a law student who loves the very idea of helping people with their wedding day. They meet when she finds the help wanted ad that he places. I really liked how Terah's helpful heart helped to break through to Greg's hardened heart. Terah is the type of character that I love, in part because she has went from hard times and grew from them. I loved these colorful and delightful characters, all the way from the two main characters to all of the charming minor characters.

Wall-to-wall books - wendy says

This story was an OK, nice read, but didn't shine for me. For some reason it just didn't grab me. I found it enjoyable and did keep reading.

The characters, while they were ok, I didn't really fall in love with anybody. I found them to be quite unbelievable and almost desperate. Greg was not "the leading man" for me.

Oh my I am making this sound like a bad book and its so not! I did like it enough, really! This was a sweet story. It got real good reviews from Amazon. So please judge for yourself.

Thank you Blogging for Books for sending me this ebook for my honest review.

Joy says

Another short novella in the year of weddings series.

Greg needs help...and fast. Since his mother died, he's inherited her wedding business. Only problem is...he knows nothing about weddings, dealing with stressed out brides, or picking out the perfect wedding dress.

Tara's pretty sure this job is a dream come true. Working with brides and lace and obsessive family members seem to come naturally for her. Plus, the store's handsome owner isn't that bad either.

This was quite an enjoyable story and clean for all readers.

Bluerose's Heart says

This turned out to be such a precious little romance! I loved it!

Greg's mother has recently passed away, and he has inherited her bridal shop. As the story begins, he has a full day of brides ahead, but no employees available to guide them through the special shopping process. To his rescue comes Tara, a 3rd year law student needing money for survival. With no bridal shop experience, Greg has his hesitations, but Tara issues a challenge. Do you think she's up for it?

All dressed up in love is a novella, so things move along quickly. I was actually surprised at how quickly, but then I remembered how quick my own engagement and marriage came along(though still not near as quick as within this book). ;) In the past, I haven't been the biggest fan of novellas, but these days I'm finding I like them more and more. This sweet story gave me a lovely dose of romantic reading, which I crave occasionally.

Greg has his faults, as every leading man should. He's a workaholic, and he has a great deal of guilt regarding the fact that he lived so close to his mother, but never made time for her. Still, he's sweet and has a heart of gold. Tara is probably a lesson for most of us ladies. She didn't over-react to certain events that took place, and she was determined to not keep a man from his football. She was also on a super tight budget, but didn't whine about it. She didn't mind showing she could eat without embarrassment. On the other hand, she DID over-react to other events, bringing her back to a realistic character.

All Dressed up in Love is the March story within the Year of Weddings Novella. I definitely recommend it for a super quick, yet romantic story. I enjoyed my time with Greg and Tara and all the wedding shop ladies!

*I was provided an e-copy, in exchange for my honest opinion.

Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says

From this book I learned several behind the scenes details of bridal fashion sales and shops. I was really impressed by the author's research of the industry and how she weaved it into the story. Saving Greg's mother's upscale bridal boutique was a compelling plot, but I wasn't able to fully connect with the characters for some reason. I enjoyed Tara's optimistic and bright personality which complemented Greg's more serious nature. They both struggled with their plans and vision for their futures, thinking they were on the path that would fulfill their dreams, but learned that by looking for God's guidance that a new dream was possible.

(Thank you to Zondervan Publishing and BookLook Bloggers for a copy of the book in exchange for my honest review)

Dawn says

Lawyer Greg Elizondo is working at his mother's bridal shop, trying to keep it afloat, since her death. He's got a full calendar of brides coming in that day and all of the employees are out (maternity leave, sick, vacation). He needs a miracle. When 3rd year law student Tara Simonetti walks in and immediately brings

peace to the chaos, he hires her on the spot. But he's a lawyer. He knows how grueling law school can be, especially that final year. Yet Tara brings a joy to the shop that hasn't been seen since his mother's death. As they fight their attraction to each other and all of the obstacles that show up in their way, both Greg and Tara have to realize exactly what is important.

Novellas are fun, quick stories for me to escape into when I'm not in the mood to read a full length novel. I've read a lot of the Weddings novellas over the past year. This is one of those that falls into the "awww cute" category.

I loved how Greg was doing everything he could to save his mother's dream. I loved how there was more to him than just the corporate lawyer. Sure he was guilty of making assumptions, but so was Tara. Yet they managed to figure it out and make things work.

I enjoyed the camaraderie between all of the bridal shop employees. Tara came in as an outsider, but soon she was one of them. There was a real sense of family in the shop. I also loved how Tara recognized the need to target the "plugged in" generation. She knew it would be good for business and it would set the shop out as unique.

Fans of the Weddings series will enjoy this book.

I received the Kindle copy for free from Booklook Blogger's for the purpose of reviewing. My thoughts and opinions are my own.

Recommended to fans of Janice Thompson, weddings, novellas

Rating - 4 stars

Debb Hackett says

What a lovely story. Novellas are really hard to pace and yet this one ticks along and doesn't rush to the ending in a hurry. The plot is charming and sweet with character development and tension. If you like a quick but satisfying romance, then I'd highly recommend this book.

Andrea says

This was a delightful story to listen to! I loved how the author brought the characters their true hearts desires. The setting in a bridal store felt so natural and real.

Rachel Marie says

This story was super sweet and cute and just fun. I loved the setting and the characters, and enjoyed this one a lot.

Tara is a law student, who takes a job at a local wedding dress boutique because she's low on funds. The

owner, Grant, is a hotshot lawyer who took over the place when his mother died and has no idea how to run it. But he wants to keep his mother's beloved shop alive, and is willing to do whatever it takes to keep it going.

I liked Tara. She was spunky, smart, and blunt. She wasn't afraid to tell it like it is. She wants to be a lawyer to help people, but it's not her passion. She finds her passion while working in the shop, helping brides with their dream day. Grant thought his heart was in the big city at a law firm, but the more he works at the shop, the more he realizes how much he likes the small town, the atmosphere... and Tara.

I liked both the characters, as they were a lot of fun. I had some issues with the portrayal of Grant, as there was a lot of saying what he was, but then he didn't actually show it. In this case, it was a good thing, as Tara has built up this idea of him being a greedy, big money lawyer, but he was actually kind and sweet. But I loved all the side characters too, and loved seeing the day-to-day of the bridal shop and how they all step in to help each other.

The only issue I had was with the ending. I don't want to spoil things, but it went way too fast. Beyond the point of unrealistic and romantic daydream, and into ridiculous. I know I'm not into romance as much as most girls that read this kind of stuff, and therefore may not understand it as much as I should. But I thought the ending was not built up to. It happened randomly, and honestly kind of ruined it for me. But other than that, this was a fun, sweet story.

*I received a copy from the publisher, this did not affect my honest opinion.
This review first appears on The NerdHerd Reads*

Janet says

3.5 light

Meagan Myhren-bennett says

All Dressed Up in Love
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By Ruth Logan Herne

Greg Elizondo knows law but when it comes to weddings he is clueless. Unfortunately for him his lack of knowledge just may cost him his mother's struggling bridal shop. And unless a miracle happens he just may lose it all this week-end.

Fortunately for him Tara Simonetti loves weddings and anything bridal and most importantly she's seen his notice for needed help. And Greg is desperate for help and Tara just may be the miracle he needs.

And there may be just a spark of attraction between them, but there is a problem. Greg is an up-and-coming lawyer in a large firm and Tara has a problem with lawyers who focus on the all powerful \$ and the up-ward course of their career.

But sometimes what we see on the surface isn't what lies beneath. Can Tara see Greg as more than a lawyer? And is Greg more than his job? Sometimes it takes a seemingly random event to change how we look at others and how we see ourselves.

All Dressed Up in Love is a sweet story that will have you wondering if there will be a wedding in the end. Sometimes our dreams change and for a happily ever after to be a possibility two dreams just might need to be reworked.

This is a perfect week-end read or a way to unwind after a long day.

I was provided a copy of this book by the publisher through the BookLook blogger program in exchange for my honest review.

Leslie M. says

Many little girls envision working in a bridal shop, with all the lace and associated frills. Tara Simonetti has the chance at her dream job when she finds a “Help Wanted” sign for a position at Elena’s Bridal. As a third-year law student, she needs money, and she has extra time on her hands. She wants to savor this job while she has the chance, as she has promised to return to her small hometown and provide them with an honest lawyer, unlike the one her dad had prior to his untimely death.

Greg Elizondo, a hotshot lawyer looking to climb up the corporate ladder and vying for a job in New York City, is trying to keep his mother’s shop afloat. Just six months after her death, the store is already facing closure. They will have to work together to brainstorm ideas if the store is to thrive once again. They both notice chemistry between them, but both have what they believed to be firm plans mapped out. Will they discover that dreams, and plans, can change?

This is a quick, fun read, and the author’s personal experience from working in a bridal store adds to the realistic details and characters. There are a number of humorous scenes with Greg being totally out of his element in the midst of lace, alterations, and Bridezillas. Herne does bring to light the difficulty of keeping a small business running these days, and the importance of having a presence on social media. The characters remind the reader that while everyone has regrets, they should not hold us back. There are no accidents in life. God has a plan. A wonderful takeaway message is: “Safe is good, but sometimes life just dares you to run in the rain.”

Darla Damron says

Cute story! Recommend it to those who like stories in wedding shops.

Beth Erin says

Wonderful, wonderful, beautiful, beautiful storytelling! Greg and Tara are working together to save his mother's bridal shop but Tara is reluctant to trust her heart to a workaholic corporate lawyer. This is a deeply

moving, ugly cry and sigh of complete bookish bliss, redemptive story with romance. My heartstrings are all tied up in pretty little bows and I'll have to open a new box of tissues but oh this story has resonated with me!
