



Kate's Wedding

Chrissie Manby

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Thirty-nine-year-old Kate had almost given up on love when she met her fiance. Now she's planning for the wedding she never dreamed she'd have. But things seem to be slipping out of her control. Diana, born on the day of the 1981 Royal Wedding, never doubted that one day she would find her prince. Newly engaged, and with daddy's credit card in her grasp, she's in full Bridezilla mode. Against the backdrop of the other couple getting married in April 2011, both women prepare for the most important day of their lives. But will each bride get her perfect day? Or will it all become a right royal fiasco?

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From Reader Review Kate's Wedding for online ebook

Arisa Dizon says

The writing is a little bit disarrayed, perhaps because with all the stories from different perspectives. However, that's just life (love), isn't it? It is just as complicated and confusing. But I like how it is written. I like how the characters are all related with each other and how each of them has their own story. But with all that was said and done, the point is... there exists love. Love, however, is not limited to an age group or the size of your body. It does not care if you are a fat old spinster. Every one can fall in love. The real question is... is that enough to marry? Will you marry a domestic goddess (oh and a beautiful one at that) and have her breathe down your neck for the rest of your life? Will you marry a guy who doesn't thrill you just because time is ticking? You see, the title gives away the major theme: marriage. And it teaches us to cherish what you have. Don't let go of what's good. Don't let go of your personality for another. And be wise. Be wise about love. Be wild, yes. Enjoy the moment, yes. But be wise. Use your brain as much as you use your heart. Don't let the attraction blind you. But don't let pride hinder you. Love wisely, but love truly. By reading the book, I read all this. Plus, I get to have a good laugh. It entertained me a lot. But sometimes, I just want to say 'bloody hell.'

Orma says

Prevedibile nella sua banalità, banale nella sua prevedibilità. Letto fino a pagina 127, sfogliato il resto e lette le ultime dieci pagine. Inspiegabilmente (?) sento di non aver perso una virgola della trama. Non è manco un libro da ombrellone.

Diane Louise says

Absolutely fabulous - There were tears...

Hannie says

Een leuk verhaal, dat zijdelings is gekoppeld is aan het huwelijk van prins William en Kate Middleton. Het boek draait om de personages Diana en Kate. Zij gaan beiden trouwen. Bij Diana moet alles over the top zijn, terwijl Kate liever een klein feest heeft. Dat ze beiden zo verschillend zijn is erg leuk. Er is ook nog een extra verhaallijn in het boek rondom Melanie, eigenaresse van de bruidswinkel waar Diana en Kate hun jurk hebben gekocht. Dit is niet heel prominent aanwezig, maar wel leuk. Wat ik verder leuk vind aan het boek is dat niet alles loopt als gepland. Ook word je tegen het einde nog even op het verkeerde been gezet.

Caroline Montague says

I love Chrissie Manby books and Kate's wedding did not disappoint.

Emma says

It's been a while since I've read a Chrissie Manby book. In fact, the last time I picked up a Chrissie Manby book was when she was known as Chris Manby. I don't understand why I haven't because she was the first adult book I read; Lizzie Jordan's Secret Life. I still remember the story vividly and racing through it when I should have been doing my Macbeth G.C.S.E. essay. Then I got swept up in the royal wedding fever and snapped up Kate's Wedding when it came out, and I'm glad I did.

The book is largely told from Kate's point-of-view, with some from Diana, and the odd chapter told from Melanie's, the wedding dress shop owner, view. The story starts from when Kate and Diana get engaged, with them crossing paths from time to time. Kate wants a small, simple affair and Diana wants her version of the royal wedding, and by God will she get it!

Kate was lovely. She just wants to be married without all the trappings of a wedding. I completely related to her in that sense. Even when she was ready for bouncing Ian, her fiancé, down the aisle for some of his questionable behaviour, I related to that too. But what got on my nerves in those situations, and it has done in other novels too, is when couples don't talk. They just assume the other should know what they want. It really rubs me up the wrong way and I will never relate or understand it. That was a pet hate for me in this story.

Then you had Diana, a complete and utter Bridezilla. I've never really met someone who was a Bridezilla, but I could completely imagine them to be like Diana. With no original thought of her own and constantly looking to Kate Middleton and the royal wedding, she wanted everything her way. I loved to hate Diana and the wrath she inflicted on her fiancé, Ben. I didn't have any sympathy for him though. He had no backbone and brought it on himself. They were both written so well, that I wished there had been more of Diana and her spoilt tantrums, with Ben wondering how much more he could take.

There were some very funny moments and sweet moments, and this has made me want to pick up some more Chrissie Manby novels as I've quite clearly been missing out since my last venture into her books. I would definitely recommend this to anyone who loves chicklit!

Nicki Kendall says

A fun chicklit read for anyone who is getting married or just loves everything weddings

Antonella Gagliano says

Lettura leggera e scorrevole consigliato

Valentina says

Personalmente era dai tempi di “I love shopping in bianco” che non leggevo storie incentrate sulle nozze e, leggendo la trama di questo romanzo, speravo di catapultarmi nello spensierato mondo dell’ansia prematrimoniale, fatto di fiori, abiti estrosi e tanto sano divertimento. Ma “I due matrimoni” non ha niente di tutto questo: per quanto le prime cento pagine siano godibili, le successive sono tremendamente noiose. Kate e Diana sono due future spose appartenenti a due diverse decadi, come diversi background sociali e stili di vita, ma la prima deve fare i conti anche con il suo nuovo lavoro e la preoccupazione per la madre che è affetta dal cancro, mentre la seconda ha praticamente costretto il fidanzato al matrimonio dopo aver scoperto il suo tradimento.

Il romanzo si sforza di sembrare piccante, aggiungendo il topos del triangolo amoroso, intervallato dalle lagne di Kate e dai capricci di Diana, il menefreghismo di Ian e la “fedeltà” di Ben (quella di un fido cagnolino). I dialoghi sono un po’ surreali, così come le descrizioni dei servizi fotografici degli sposini. Per quanto si possa avere un po’ di simpatia per Kate, giustificata dal suo essere una persona ordinaria, non si può fare a meno di trovarla snervante, con la sua pretesa di essere capita senza che si sforzi di dire come si sente, o semplicemente vivendo il matrimonio come un passo che “s’ha da fare”, senza badare alla decisione dell’abito o altri particolari molto personali. Al contrario Diana è la classica “principessa” di un padre con i sensi di colpa per aver divorziato dalla madre e che per questo le regalerebbe perfino la luna, convinta che il mondo giri attorno a lei e che tutto debba stare ai suoi ordini.

L’unico personaggio che si è guadagnato la mia simpatia è Melhany, la proprietaria del negozio “Bride on time”, con i suoi pensieri e il suo amore per il grande giorno. Per il resto di questo romanzo è più comica la copertina che il contenuto. Sembra che si sia giocato proprio sulla coincidenza del matrimonio reale inglese per rendere la storia più “commerciale”, sicuramente una buona strategia di marketing che non fa altro che confermare che l’abito non fa il monaco.

Nonostante sia ben tradotto e i periodi siano ben calibrati, il romanzo non decolla, anzi, più volte ho accelerato la lettura perché lo strazio finisse. Ho idea che lo scopo dell’autrice fosse quello di cercare di toccare il cuore con la storia del tumore al seno (cosa che a breve credo diventerà uno dei topoi della letteratura), lasciando pensare che si abbia davanti un romanzo toccante oltre che ironico, ma ciò non fa altro che appesantire la narrazione.

Anche l’appigliarsi alle storie delle due principesse di cui le protagoniste portano il nome è banale e scontato, per non parlare del nome completo di Kate che rileva una mancanza di fantasia (si chiama infatti Kate Williamson).

Insomma, una lettura che avrebbe dovuto essere fresca e leggera, ma che col senno di poi mi sarei bellamente risparmiata.

Chris says

Oh God I hated Diana so much from the start to the end of the book!! but other than that a lovely read

Jules (Never enough time to read) says

Probably not my favourite book by Chrissie Manby, but it was a really easy, fun and cute read. Even if some of the characters were portrayed as completely over the top stereotypes.

Leah says

Kate Williamson never thought the day would come when she would get married, so when her boyfriend Ian proposes at the top of the Eiffel Tower, she's thrilled. As she sets about planning her wedding, family troubles mean that Kate's up to her eyeballs with everything and as her family step in to help her plan her perfect wedding, she finds herself slowly losing control. Diana Ashford, born on the day Princess Di wed Charles, is desperate for her very own fairytale wedding. Now that she's found her prince Ben, she's in full Bridezilla mode, made worse by the fact that her parents indulge her every whim. Set against the backdrop of the other couple getting married, will Kate and Diana make it up the aisle or will it all descend into a right Royal farce?

I'm a big, big fan of Chrissie Manby, and she's an author whose books I look forward to year after year. What I Did On My Holidays was meant to be her 2011 novel but after the announcement that Prince William was marrying Kate Middleton, Chrissie was struck by inspiration and wrote Kate's Wedding in a month. I was looking forward to reading it, knowing there'd be an influx of Royal-wedding-related novels knowing if anyone could put her own spin on it, it would be Chrissie. But I was also apprehensive, how good can a book be when it's put together in a matter of months when the whole process usually takes a year? I dived into the book nevertheless and I wasn't disappointed at all.

You would think that a book called Kate's Wedding, that focuses on two weddings taking place in April 2011 might be a bit of a let-down or a rip-off, and some people might expect the book to just be a homage to William and Kate, but thankfully that's not the case at all. Yes, the two female main characters are called Kate and Diana and yes Kate and Wills' wedding does feature prominently, but that's not the be all and end all of the book. It just provides an enjoyable backdrop to the book, and I liked how Diana was determined to out-do Wills and Kate, from the engagement ring to the engagement photos. I found it hugely amusing, in fact. Kate (the fictional one) isn't as hopped up on weddings as Diana is, as her focus is mainly focused on her ill mum, rather than having the wedding of the year.

Both girls are also experiencing troubles with their grooms-to-be. Ben, Diana's fiance, isn't as excited about the wedding as she is, and the same can be said for Ian, Kate's fiance. (See! Chrissie resisted the urge to have Kate marry a 'Will' and Diana marry a 'Charles' despite how fantastic I would have found it). The third person the book focuses on is Melanie, who owns the wedding dress shop Bride on Time where both Diana and Kate get their dresses from. She got married on the day Di and Charles got married, and has always felt a kinship with Princess Di. I thought Melanie's story was very interesting, and it certainly helped to break up Kate's worry about her mum and Diana's full-on Bridezilla mode. I thought the entire book was fascinating and I was rushing through the pages as quickly as I could, which surprised me.

Of our three main characters, it was Kate whom I immediately warmed to. She was such a lovely character, and very much helped to offset the crazy that was Diana. To have two such contrasting personalities was fascinating and I definitely preferred Kate. Mainly because, with the greatest of respect, Diana was a total cow. She acted as if the World should revolve around her and her alone, she treated everybody around her as if they were her minions and the way she wanted to replicate Wills and Kate in every way drove me up the wall. I truly wanted to smack her, I'm not kidding. I seriously disliked her. Yet, for some reason, I did actually love her chapters because the drama and full-on Bridezilla amused me no end and I was dying to know what she'd think of next to subject Ben to. Much like Kate, Melanie was a lovely character and I loved how dedicated she was to her job. The men in the book didn't necessarily capture me. I thought Ian was a bit

lazy, but I did like Ben, despite what he did (to be perfectly honest, I could understand having to live with bloomin' Diana).

Kate's Wedding is very much a tongue-in-cheek novel and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I finished it in 4 hours and I got fully immersed in the story. Despite how nuts I thought Diana was, she was also hugely entertaining, and Kate's family troubles added some much-needed normalcy to the novel. It's a book that doesn't necessarily take itself seriously and it's one Manby fans will devour. The book switches perspective regularly and is written in third-person allowing us to get everyone's point of views on their respective nuptials. It was the perfect way to spend my morning/afternoon and I devoured each and every page. Some readers may not be pleased with the fact it's a novel that's basically riding the coat-tails of the Royal Wedding but I liked the backdrop it provided, and I lapped up all the Royal stories and connections. Manby is on tip-top form here, the ending in particular was quite hilarious and is definitely a book Manby fans and Royal Wedding fans will absolutely lap up. I did.

Katie Oliver says

When Kate Williamson's boyfriend Ian unexpectedly proposes to her at the top of the Eiffel tower, what should be the most romantic moment of her life...isn't, quite. The weather is misty and damp. The platform is crammed with tourists. When Ian pops the question, Kate feels ambushed and uncertain. Is this what she really wants?

Diana Ashcroft, on the other hand, knows exactly what she wants. She expects a proposal from Ben, and she gets it. And she knows exactly what kind of wedding she wants. Kate Middleton - a commoner - is about to marry Prince William. Diana and Ben must have a tasteful engagement photo, just like Kate and Wills. They must have a cathedral wedding. And Diana must have a perfect, extravagant, expensive dress.

When Kate's mum is diagnosed with cancer, Ian's lack of empathy puzzles and then angers her. Does she really want to spend the rest of her life with a man who's obsessed with West Ham to the exclusion of all else and who can't heat up his own ready meal?

One of the doctors at her mum's hospital is Kate's old boyfriend, Matt. Will they rekindle the old flame now that he's divorced and Kate is disenchanted with Ian?

Kate's Wedding is a thoughtful and often funny look at romantic expectations versus reality. This is an excellent, entertaining read.

Heather says

Though a little dreary to begin with, this story was typically Chris Manby: entertaining.

Here are some of my favourite quotes (though I left out the really funny ones cause there was just too many!):

Everyone gets old. Everyone dies in the end.

That was the problem with really loving someone: the feelings persisted long after the object of your affection has banished from your life.

It's centuries and centuries of conditioning. It's the way his mother and father were around each other and the way their parents were around them. It's everything you see on television. It's every novel you read. It's every celebrity who announces that giving up her film career to cook his dinner was the best move she ever made. There's so much pressure on us to do it all, have it all, then don the white dress and give it all up.

I am a novice at this whole relationship thing, but I want to get it right. I want to grow to understand what you want and need without you having to tell me, but while I'm still learning, please bear with me. Please have the patience to tell me again and again. I can't stand the thought of losing you because you've given up trying to make me understand. To understand and to love you for the rest of my life are my reasons for being here.

Yours for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, and promising to make you a cup of tea every morning until I'm too old and tired to lift the kettle.

Yamna Rashid says

Funny, fast paced and a a totally comical way of describing brides right before their weddings. Loved it.
