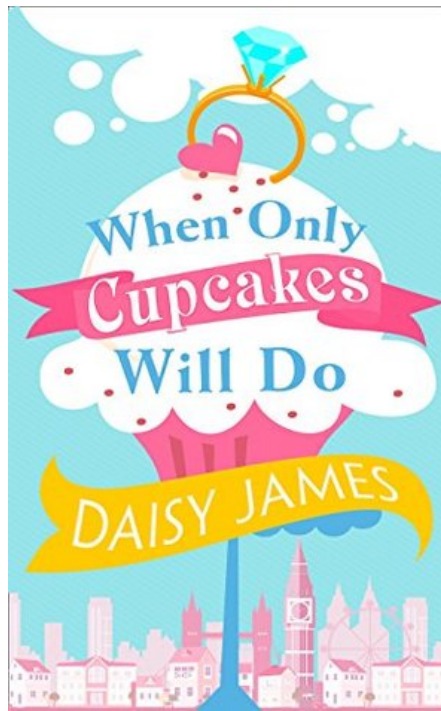




When Only Cupcakes Will Do

Daisy James

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When Only Cupcakes Will Do Daisy James

The delightfully heartwarming romantic comedy from Daisy James!

When life gives you lemons, make lemon drizzle cupcakes...

Lucie thought that proposing to her boyfriend in Tiffany's would be the best day of her life. Until he said no. In just a few seconds, her whole world is turned upside-down! And when she accidentally switches cocoa powder for chilli powder at work, she finds herself out of a job, too...

Baking has always made life better in the past, but can Lucie really bake her way to happiness? Starting her own company, selling cupcakes out of an old ice cream van might just be the second chance that Lucie needs!

Of course, she never expected to find love along the way...

When Only Cupcakes Will Do Details

Date : Published August 4th 2016 by Carina

ISBN :

Author : Daisy James

Format : Kindle Edition 210 pages

Genre : Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary, Adult

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From Reader Review When Only Cupcakes Will Do for online ebook

Joanne Robertson says

Oh my days! Daisy James is fast becoming my favourite "go to" author when I want an uplifting, feel good read and I have to tell you that this one is my favourite so far! And it contains the most amazing cakes!!! What more could a girl ask for?? I honestly think I put half a stone on just reading this book, I want Lucie to be running her cupcake business right here, right now!! In fact this book contains all the ingredients for your summer holiday beach read with a strong willed female chef, a gorgeous food critic with an adventurous streak, cakes, families and Tiffanys!! Actually, one of those little blue boxes containing a diamond encrusted cupcake would be my idea of heaven!

All of the characters were well written but I loved Lucie the best. Her journey of self discovery starts after she loses her job due to a rather uncharacteristic loss of temper with a food critic in the Italian restaurant where she works. As is the norm nowadays, every word and gesture is captured and spreads like wildfire on social media sites and so Lucie returns to her hometown to lick her wounds (and lots of flavoured buttercreams!!) Her decision to start her own cupcake business leads to an inspired choice of name and transportation. And I found this to be my favourite part as she investigates further the type of cupcakes she will sell and the parties she plans to hold where those cupcakes will be the star attractions! Having worked for a children's cookery school for a few years, I have to say that Daisy got the reactions of the children to their baking experiences spot on! Kids and cakes are a match made in heaven and now we are back in a salmonella free egg world, the next generation are also able to experience the best bit of baking....licking the spoon and scraping that mixing bowl!

And then added to the mixture are the usual romantic misunderstandings and family dramas which all combine to make this a sweet and deliciously understated romance. For me, the icing on the top is the wonderful epilogue which is set in one of my most favourite places in the whole wide world!

I just loved this book from page one and haven't stopped smiling since I finished it! I couldn't have put it down even if I wanted to...not even for my favourite lemon meringue cupcake. More please Ms James!

I received a copy of this book via netgalley in return for an unbiased review.

Emer says

Do you ever get into one of those ruts in life? You know when things around you are seemingly crashing down and nothing is going right??? Yeah... one of *those* weeks!!! Oh we've all been there sadly **le sigh**

So I needed a sugar high. Something to lift the mood, and as I was going through one of my *many* emails from Bookbub this title jumped out at me: When Only Cupcakes Will Do.

Cupcakes = sugar = happiness!!!!!!!!!!

Surely it was a sign!!
Right????

So off I trotted to my ebook store of choice to drown myself in buttercream icing and sprinkles. '*Cupcakes will do very nicely indeed*' I thought to myself; although, as a point of note, I prefer fairy cakes!!! Much lighter and less sickly sweet plus they're what my mum used to bake for us as kids but cupcakes it was.

Sugar coma.... **COME AT ME BRO!!!!!!!!!!!!**

I don't know if I should really review this book because technically I could have reviewed it *before* I even read it! Helloooooooooooooooooo cliché central!! So you can maybe consider this review spoilery if you've never read a chick lit or watched a rom-com before... Otherwise there's nothing here that's going to affect your own reading of this book in the future.

We have a main character (I swear I just finished this book five minutes ago and already I can't remember her name!) So let's call her perfectly amiable, yet lacking in confidence, but super passionate and talented girl-next-door type main character.... heck that's too much of a mouthful for even super long-winded little-old-me! Sooooo MC will have to do for now!

Okay so MC is a romantic at heart: she thinks the most romantic thing in the world is to be proposed to in Tiffany's but her boyfriend is a bit slow when it comes to picking up the hints and therefore she decides to propose to him....

And shock of all shocks, this does not go well!!!

Then, like two London buses arriving together when you've been waiting for a lifetime for just the one, even more drama comes along and she gets fired from her job as a pastry chef....

What *is* a girl to do????

Why escape the rat race of the city centre and move in with her ever supportive cardboard-cutout sister and her two super cute cardboard-cutout kids in their gorgeous cardboard-cutout suburban home of course! Duhhh!!!

But a girl needs to be independent and super successful *really* quickly.!!!

So selling cupcakes to the masses in an old ice cream van blasting out Greensleeves is definitely going to be the ticket to a Michelin star in the future, right??????

Host a few kiddie birthday parties with pink glittery cupcakes....

Maybe a hen night with grown-up versions (i.e. with lots of booze)...

And then throw in a guy from her past who she always thought was a "ladies' man" and sparks fly.... And ex-boyf is going to want her back at some stage right??? Because nothing is more desirable than success...

And maybe the ex truly was the one for her???? They did have a nice life together and new boy is just so risky or some crap but then he does make her feel like she's truly alive!!!! AND HE HAS A HOT FOREIGN ACCENT!!!!!!

OH THE ANGST OF IT ALL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Face it, at about 2/3 through, there's *always* an emotional dilemma. This is the Sophie's choice of cupcakes!! Does MC want comforting strawberry vanilla or deeply decadent chocolate caramel????????????

But never fear!!!

There *will* be a happy ever after because isn't that the whole point of this book?????????

Pure unadulterated escapism.

So it's not terribly original or highly memorable but it is sufficiently cute. And definitely sweet enough to stem my craving for a sugary high.... Even if I did roll my eyes an inordinate number of times!!!!

two stars

Karen says

As soon as I saw that Carina UK would be releasing a new Daisy James book on August 4th I knew I would have to get it. Luckily I was able to do so early thanks to NetGalley!

Lucie has two things she loves -- her boyfriend, Alex, and being a pastry chef. For eight weeks she had planned the perfect marriage proposal and when it doesn't go as she had hoped everything starts to fall apart for her, including her job. It's like a domino effect. When dominoes fall unexpectedly you just set them back up in a sturdier and more stable pattern. Daisy James' When Only Cupcakes Will Do is the story of Lucie finding her perfect pattern and it's just as sweet as cupcake icing.... aside from the heartbreaks and frustrations and the occasional need for tissues.

Even when Lucie's life was falling apart around her, James still made me snort-laugh. Luckily I read most of it while wearing dark clothing so the spurted coffee wasn't quite so visible. The tissues mentioned earlier helped to mop up the aftermath of the snorts even more than the random sympathy tear!

"If you don't mind my saying so, Lucie, you look like you've been flattened by a runaway steamroller and waited while it reversed to make sure the job was done properly." (9%)

All snorting aside, one couldn't help but feel sorry at the mess Lucie's life had become. It didn't pick up for her until she and her sister, Jess, decide to start a cupcake business together. It's so much fun to watch it all unfold -- even though I think I gained ten extra pounds reading about it all! Being a chef isn't just a job, but a passion and a reason to wake up in the morning. The importance of food oozes off of the page like the gooey center of a lava cake.

"I need to work. I need to cook. Every memory I have has food in it somewhere; whether it be an aroma, a flavour on the tongue, a texture under my fingertips." (21%)

Of course, there's the romance and angst that has to be a part of most chicklits, and it's pretty obvious once you start reading as to who will end up with who. It doesn't matter, though. The how associated with who will end up with who is what matters and here it's done deliciously with a generous sprinkle of laughter.

P Leslie says

I received this book from net gallery for an honest review.

Lucie, a pastry chef, plans to propose to her boyfriend, Alex. However, things don't go according to plan as Alex neither accepts nor rejects her proposal but merely walks away without a second glance.

Lucie is devastated, Alex is completely ignoring her and he never did give her a reason for his behaviour. She's so engrossed in her personal life, that she doesn't realise that she's put chilli flakes on her dessert. The dessert makes its way to the customer; but unfortunately the damage is done. The unhappy customer, is a food critic - and Lucie has a complete meltdown in front of the whole restaurant.

Lucie and her sister start a cupcake business. She crossed paths again with Ed, the food critic, and realises that she's insanely attracted to him. She meets Alex after three months of separation - are his explanations good enough? Does she still love Alex? Will she follow her head or her heart?

This book wasn't too bad, but I found Lucie frustrating. Alex, ignores her, puts his career before her, and doesn't contact her for three months yet she actually needs time to think whether to go back to him or if she still loves him?

I liked Ed, and the chemistry between him and Lucie was incredibly intense.

It's a short read but I enjoyed it.

Carolyn Hunter says

What's not to love , drama, flirting, love , cake and all topped with sprinkles .

Started the book with the plan to have quick read and put it down again till later! Well that didn't happen read the book right through loving every bit , feeling her embarrassment, her passion and experiencing it all as if it were happening to me. I loved it, helps immensely that I love baking and could taste the cupcakes described. A great read highly recommended.

Laura says

This is a great book written by Daisy James. Lucie has lost her boyfriend and her job. She decides that starting her own company, selling cupcakes out of an old ice cream van might just be the second chance she needs. This is a great book with a wonderful story and well developed characters. This book will keep you reading long into the night. This was such a great read and full of surprises. I am looking forward to reading the next book by this great author. A Review copy was provided to me in exchange for a fair and honest review. The free book held no determination on my personal review.

Liina says

Lucie has a great idea how to surprise her boyfriend-she'll propose to him! She's more than excited for the event and the future, but things don't always go the way you wish for. When he silently refuses, Lucie is devastated. The situation affects her so deeply that she makes a huge mess at work, she accidentally mixes up cocoa powder and chilli, to make the whole situation even worse, the food was served to a food critic. After losing her boyfriend and a job, she end up going to her sister's. As Lucie has a passion for baking, she doesn't sit around for long and starts a new business with her sister. Things start to go better and better, when a new love interest also comes to the picture. Some bad things have to happen to make room for even better things in life.

It was a really sweet and enjoyable read. All those descriptions about the delicious cupcakes made me want to bake a batch myself. Even if the story was a tad bit predictable, it was still an uplifting and great summery read. I'm looking forward to more books by the author.

MetLineReader says

I enjoyed this tale of Lucie. It's a retelling of the "Every cloud has a silver lining" quote. Thank heavens that Alex turned down her Tiffany's proposal... Run for the hills, he's a nightmare, cardboard-cutout type of chap.

So Lucie picks herself up (after a little notoriety) and sets up a new business...

A fun, cakey story that was as sweet as buttercream. The perfect change of scene after several thrillers. I have enjoyed *If The Dress Fits* by Daisy James, so clicked on this straightaway when I was perusing the online bookshelves of that great South American river!!!

metLineReader rating 4****

Tracey says

Thank You Carina UK and Netgalley for allowing me to review this book xx

This was a funny short read which I enjoyed. The baking was of course very acceptable, who doesn't love a cupcake, just be careful what is added!!

A great romance with added food always a winner for me

Elaine says

I've loved every book I've read by this author - and this is no exception. She writes with a great sense of humour so, even though her hero and heroine may well have traumatic events, the story is still well seasoned with tasty, witty events and encounters. There's also the delicious theme of Italian deserts and designer cupcakes in this novel, making it a really mouthwatering read.

The delectable recipe for this story includes an Italian trattoria, a mystery restaurant reviewer, hashtag fame, an old competitor (who is a hot Italian hunk) and an old ice cream van that plays Greensleeves when you press the silver button! It also includes good friends, lots of advice, a lovely sister (and her twin sons) and a brilliant plot. The characters are well developed and there are certainly some who I hope will feature in their own novel in future. The story starts with everything going wrong for Lucie and it sure is a rocky road to her achieving her HEA in this brilliant second chance romance. It is a sweet and scrumptious fun read, an incomparable recipe for a delightful summer romantic comedy.

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

Sonya Wasden says

This was a wonderfully written book about learning to change your life from the dull gray life you thought you wanted to a world with a kaleidoscope of possibilities.

Lucie had everything she thought she wanted. She had a great job as a pastry chef. she had a wonderful boyfriend who she loved very much and she lived in London where she loved the hustle and bustle. At least she did until she proposed to her boyfriend, Alex, in Tiffany's and he turned her down. Then her world began to spiral out of control. She lost her wonderful job because she mixed up cocoa powder with chili powder for the dessert she was preparing and the world's most outspoken food critic was the one to try her dessert on that night. Not only did she make the mistake but then she had a meltdown aimed at the food critic which was captured on social media and became viral. She became known as "Livid Livie".

So, she moved away from the hustle and bustle of London to the suburbs to live with her sister and two nephews. She needed an escape and time to regroup and get her life back on track. Would you she ever be able to recover from the humiliation and heartbreak? Would she ever have her dream of becoming a world renown pastry chef? You'll have to read to find out.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It was a sweet, clean romance with no sex and no foul language. It was a story about how true, passionate, real love can be wonderful and helps us to see things in a whole different light.

I was given a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Andrea (mrsaubergine) says

A light, by-the-numbers romance which was okay but just didn't grab me. I liked Lucie and the way she turned a couple of disasters into a new life for herself, but never felt her connection to either of the men in her life. I know I wasn't meant to like Alex, but Ed kept sounding like he was talking down to her. For example, I'm sure that since she went to Le Cordon Bleu school as well she knew how to make a custard. I just didn't feel their connection - it felt oddly stiff. But if I was lying on a beach somewhere, this book would be an okay way to escape. Like candyfloss, it was sweet but doesn't have a lot of substance.

***Disclaimer: This e-ARC was provided to me by the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. Huge thanks to them. ***

Rachel Gilbey says

It would be remiss of me if I didn't start by stating what a simply gorgeous cover this book has, and with the mention of cupcakes in the title too, I was already put straight into the mind set of this should be a fabulously tasty story. I'm delighted to say that the icing does complete justice to the filling of this book, offering us some delicious morsels of humour, cakes, re-finding joy with your family, and an Italian man of note!

After Lucie, proposes to her boyfriend, and getting a less than favourable reaction, she goes into a slight meltdown and makes a huge error at work, mixing up cocoa powder and chilli powder, on a dish for a food critic. When she meets the critic the exchange they have ends up going viral and Lucia needs to re-evaluate her life.

However Lucie's passion is desserts and she has always wanted to more with cupcakes, so what better than a Travelling Cupcake Company with her sister who is also a talented baker. Between them they start a fabulous sounding business, and I was I had been in kitchen alongside them at all times, as well as present at the various parties they put on.

I loved the various scrumptious flavours of the cupcakes, as well the level of creativity in the cake pops, I had to google cake pop animals at one point, just so I could fully appreciate what was being made, as I don't think I've seen any properly before. There is a huge light heartedness, that runs through the whole book, especially with Lucie's renewed friendship with an unexpected man.

I loved how Lucie's character evolved over the course of this easy to follow, summery story that I would recommend as a great weekend read.

Thank you to Netgalley and Carina for this review copy. This was my honest opinion.

Bev says

This story is as sweet and delicious as the cupcakes in the title. It's a frothy, feel good read perfect for a lazy summer day - if I win the lottery I definitely want to buy myself an ice-cream van now! I enjoyed the relationships that the main character, Lucie had with her friends and family and the cupcakes sounded delicious, think I might be doing some baking this week.

Petra "Pippa" Q says

I always enjoy reading Daisy James romantic comedies where the heroines grow and develop with the storyline. The previous two books were an utter delight to delve into, and her third book is no exception to the rule.

When Only Cupcakes Will Do is sure to be a delightful read with so much baking to go around! There is a fiery chef who can without no doubt bake up a storm in the kitchen (who wouldn't like a diamond encrusted cupcake?!) or you can salivate over a hunky food critic with an adventure's streak! Personally, I adored reading the part when Lucie returns to her hometown after losing her job in the city. Our heroine certainly doesn't waste her time and get down to research and plan the most fabulous cupcake party on this planet.

Daisy's third book is simply a delectable read with a fast-paced plot and charming characters. My favourite of hers so far!?
