



Hello, Hollywood!

Janice Thompson

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In this sparkling romantic comedy, two rival screenwriters develop a relationship that they would never have scripted on their own. Backstage Pass book 2.

Hello, Hollywood! Details

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Author : Janice Thompson

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From Reader Review Hello, Hollywood! for online ebook

Jeanie Jacobson says

Laugh-out-loud funny. I loved the characters.

Lisa says

I'm definitely a Janice Thompson fan—her Weddings by Bella series was great and I enjoyed each and every book. I even read and reviewed her first Backstage Pass book, Stars Collide, and enjoyed that one. Unfortunately, I wasn't as enamored with her latest book in the Backstage Pass series, Hello Hollywood! (sorry Ms Thompson!).

Although I enjoyed the scenes where the writers brainstormed and the antics that went with it, so many of the ideas came from the old Dick Van Dyke (which I still watch!) and I Love Lucy shows. It just seemed a little too much repetition and recycling of ideas. As Hollywood writers, there should have been more original ideas. There was also quite a bit of repetition of the "great stories are built on conflict" and the plotline discussions. I actually grew kind of bored with those sections.

Each of the characters had their own "moments" and I enjoyed their stories of how they came to be at this point in their lives. It's also a treat to see such a family oriented environment. The way the family interacted at home and at "Super Gyros" really touched me. And I loved how the writers included the older "former stars" in the show—the older generation still has a lot to give. I think my favorite character in Hello Hollywood! had to be Leona. Her failing memory and illusions is so typical of Alzheimer's and I'm glad Ms Thompson brings that awareness to her readers.

The romance between some of the characters (don't want to spoil it!) is always part of Ms Thompson's books and I enjoy that part. Who doesn't love some romance?? And, as usual, the inclusion of faith is one of the reasons I read her books. I like seeing the characters living their faith and not just talking about it.

All in all, Hello Hollywood! was an okay read. It was easy to get through but I was disappointed that it wasn't up to Ms Thompson's usual standards. I still look forward to not only the next book in the Backstage Pass series, I look forward to all of Janice Thompson's books. I give Hello Hollywood! 3 out of 5 stars as just an average read.

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Cindy says

Oh my, what a book, it was so cute, I kept thinking it should be called My Big Greek Family! Athena, head

writer for the popular sitcom Stars Collide, which stars her best friend Kat (we met her in book one in this series Stars Collide). Athena is worried she is losing her edge as a comedy writer, and things are just a bit strange with her other two writers, she isn't sure what is going on with them. However the introduction of a new writer turns Athena's world upside down. Literally! She is stressed that he might be better than her, and is trying to edge her out, but there is such a huge attraction between them, her heart is in trouble. Filled with hilarious scenes set in her parent Gyro shop, you just keep wishing you could see the scenes. This book was so hilarious that I really wished I could "watch" it. Which is super different for me, because I do not care for movies or tv as much as I do written books.

Here is all these hilarious scenes and then you add in a wildly behaved Greek Domestic dog and you add perfect slapstick humor. Oh and another cute feature of the book are the titles of the book. (I won't tell I will leave that as your own surprise.) 4 stars 275 pages US \$14.99

Available October 2011 from your favorite bookseller of Revell Books, a division of Baker Publishing Group.

This book was provided for review purposes only by Revell, no payment was received for this review.

Amber Stokes says

A wonderful and quirky Greek family, a trouble-maker dog, a home-hungry preteen, and two struggling hearts make up the well-rounded and just plain fun cast of Hello, Hollywood! Not to mention the return of some of the sweet and unique characters that readers were introduced to in Stars Collide, the first book in this "Backstage Pass" series. Janice Thompson has a flair for creating interesting characters.

The plot is as sweet as baklava with a great message about trusting God with control of our lives and being grateful for the blessings we have been given. Of course, there is such a thing as too much baklava (just trust me - I know!), and such is the case with this book. Very, very sweet - but the sweetness gets extended a bit too long in the end to suit my tastes. Of course, it's nice to see a happy ending come to fruition, but it felt like the story was being stretched a bit more than necessary (in explanations, etc.).

The book did come off as a bit "preachy." In such a case, I think this book is a great one for believers who are in need of encouragement and some smiles. While there is some conflict (and as Athena notes often, "conflict is key!"), Hello, Hollywood! is just plain happy. If you're looking for some cheer with some extra fun (like T.V. series chapter titles and a darling "special feature" at the end), say hello to Hello, Hollywood!

With thanks to Revell Publishing for providing me with a copy of the book in exchange for my honest opinion.

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Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says

About this book:

Spiritual Content- A few Scriptures are mentioned & quoted; Prayers & Thanking God; Many Talks about God & His will/plan; 'H's are not capital when referring to God; Many mentions of God & Jesus; Mentions of prayers, praying, & blessings over food; Mentions of the Bible & Scriptures; Mentions of churches, church going, & a pastor; Mentions of Heaven; Mentions of blessings & being blessed; Mentions of the Amish; A few mentions of thanking God; A few mentions of Christians; A few mentions of saints & sinners; A few mentions of miracles; A couple mentions of those in the Bible; A couple mentions of witnessing; A couple mentions of a man upstairs (not meaning God); A couple mentions of sins; A mention of a cross; *Note: Mentions of an Adonis; A few mentions of evil spirits & demons in a dog; A couple mentions of the devil; A mention of hell on earth.

*Note: Many, many mentions of celebrities, singers, actors/actresses, movies, TV shows, songs, characters, & channels; Mentions of vampires; A couple mentions of Disney & Pixar; A couple mentions of GQ magazine; A mention of People magazine.

*Note: Athena mentions her chubby thighs & cellulite at times; A few mentions of a man's abs.

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New Teens- One Star

Early High School Teens- Two Stars

Older High School Teens- Three Stars

My personal Rating- Three Stars

While it's been such a long time since I first read this book, this re-read was still so much fun! There were a few comments and kisses that I didn't remember, though, so that lowers the ratings a bit, but it was all overall clean. Athena and her family reminded me of Bella and her family, which goes to show me that Miss Janice does great writing funny families!

Lots of Spiritual Content and I'm looking forward to reading the next book in the series (again!). ;)

Link to review:

<https://booksforchristiangirls.blogspot...>

\*BFCG may (Read the review to see) recommend this book by this author. It does not mean I recommend all the books by this author.

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## **Brenda says**

Having enjoyed the first book in Janice Thompson's Backstage Pass series I was anxious to read this one. I must say I think this book just might be better than the first one, with returning characters from the first book as well as a few new ones, I found this book to be laugh out loud funny.

Athena Pappas has a pretty full life with her family and friends and even though the ratings have lagged a bit she still feels pretty secure in her job as head writer for the popular sit com Stars Collide. But when the producers decide to hire a comedian, Stephen Cosse to help bolster the ratings she suddenly wonders what will happen if he is a better writer, will her job be in jeopardy? When she meets him she feels an attraction, and soon not only is Stephen worming his way into her heart but so has his eleven year old daughter Brooke. Will they figure out that some of the best things in life don't follow a script, or will they guard their hearts against love?

This was a sweet, funny story. It was easy to imagine the Athena's Greek family. I could easily understand why Stephen's daughter Brooke was drawn to the Pappas family, they are so warm and welcoming. I always love when a dog is included in a story and the introduction of Zeus, the Greek Domestic Dog was totally funny! It was great to see how Brooke and Zeus connected. The Greek food mentioned in this story really had my mouth watering, it sounded delicious!

If you enjoy reading contemporary christian romance with a great flare for humor then you certainly need to read this book, and while it is the second book in the series I feel like it could be read as a stand alone work, although I highly recommend reading the first book in the series as well.

\*A complimentary copy of this book was provided in exchange for an honest review\*

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## **Cheryl says**

Athena Pappas is the lead writer for the television show, Stars Collide. Athena's two friends and fellow writers for the show are Paul and Bob. This season for Stars Collide is a very important one. This is why Athena's boss, Rex informs them that the network is bringing in another writer to help.

Athena, Paul and Bob come up with the idea of having the two main stars of the show become pregnant. They decide that they will have Athena pretend to be pregnant and Paul and Bob will sing she is having a baby when their boss comes down to check on them. This is all fine except that when Rex arrives, he is not alone. Standing next to him is a Greek god. Not really but close, it is just the new writer, Stephen Cosse.

Hello, Hollywood is the second book in the Backstage Pass series. The first book is Stars Collide. From what I read, most of the characters from the first book are back. Though, you can read these books as stand alone novels. I have not read the first book but I have read another book from Mrs. Thompson in her Wedding in Bella series.

There were a lot of references made through out this book about Dick Van Dyke and The Alan Brady Show. Both have comedic moments in them. I feel like if you are going to reference to shows like this as to how you want to incorporate things from these shows into your show, which in this case is Stars Collide than I better laugh from all the suggestions. I hardly ever laughed at Paul and Bob's antics. Also, I had a hard time believing that Athena would fall head over heels for Stephen the moment that she met him. Stephen and Athena were supposed to work together yes but I was also led to believe that Athena did not like Stephen because he was treading on her territory and could possibly take her job. I did like Athena's family. They reminded me of the family from My Big Fat Greek Wedding.

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## Renee says

3.5 stars

There's just something about stories featuring big, close knit families that I love. Janice Thompson's Weddings by Bella series with the Italian Rossi clan was one of my favorites and I missed the chaos and fun of the series when it ended. I'm happy to say that if you liked that series as much as I did the second book in her new series, Backstage Pass brings back that same atmosphere of family and yummy food as her previous series. This time the family is Greek and quite possibly even more fun than the Rossi's! Did I mention that you might need a tissue--to wipe the drool off of your face from all the yumminess in the book? Baklava, gyros, and Mr. Tall, Dark, and Handsome...mmhmmm.

Every page is filled with humor and there are a few surprising plot twists that add just the right amount of seriousness. If you are afraid that your faves from Stars Collide are left by the wayside in this book I'm happy to say you're mistaken. Lenora and her pink Cadillac and Kat and Scott make more than cameo appearances and there are even a few big surprises for them!

Fans of fun fiction with a Christian message will enjoy this, I'm sure. There's a bit for everyone, even all you dog lovers. That cute pooch on the cover...well he causes quite the hubbub. If you're looking for a light weekend read Hello, Hollywood! definitely fits that category.

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\*I received my complimentary review copy from the publisher in exchange for posting my honest opinion of the book.\*

## Jolene says

Sometimes it's hard to be funny, even if you have an natural talent for humor. Athena Pappas knows just how important it is to be able to produce humor on demand. As head writer for Stars Collide, a television sitcom with sagging ratings, she is determined to introduce a new spark that will put Stars Collide back on the up and up. When Stephen Cosse, a Vegas comedian, is hired on the writing team, Athena's job suddenly seems less secure. Stephen is confident, creative, and handsome. As the attraction and competition escalates between Athena and Stephen, they must relinquish control and combine their efforts in both the plots of Stars Collide and their personal lives. They just might find that sometimes the best things in life are unscripted.

Hello, Hollywood! by Janice Thompson is a lovely contemporary romance and the second book in the Backstage Pass Series. Although it works well as a stand-alone novel, I enjoyed it so much that I plan to go back and read the first book in the series, Stars Collide. Thompson's experience as a screenwriter shows through in the setting and plot of the novel. I felt like I was getting a "backstage pass" into what a screenwriter's life is like. I have to admit that I've never watched the Dick Van Dyke Show, so I didn't quite understand all the references to it, but I enjoyed the scenes, nonetheless. The characters are fun and authentic. The Pappas family was definitely humorous and enjoyable. However, under all the fun and merriment of the outer layer of the novel, Athena, Stephen, and several of the supporting characters have some very serious issues and situations to deal with. The inner layer of depth was what really made this novel successful for me. I recommend Hello, Hollywood! to fans of Christian romance.

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Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Revell Publishers. 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: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

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## Emily LaVigne says

In Janice Thompson's second installment of her "Backstage Pass" series, Hollywood sitcom writer Athena Pappas juggles her life as a writer and as a member of a loud, loving Greek family. With a dip in ratings, Athena's life becomes even more complicated when Stephen Cosse is tossed into the mix - a new writer brought in to boost ratings. Is Athena's job on the line? Will she be able to find balance between her Gyro-making family, her Hollywood career, and the budding romance between herself and Stephen? Athena finds herself in the middle of a script that not even the greatest Hollywood writer could produce!

I thoroughly, and I mean thoroughly, enjoyed this book! This is the second opportunity I have had to receive and read one of Janice's books, and I have been blessed both times. Not only is Hello, Hollywood! a riotous read, this book teaches a lot as well. What I love about the characters in the book is that they are not perfect, and they admit that. They also show how trusting in God and leaning on His understanding is the only way to make sense out of life. Athena finds herself in more than one crazy situation in this book, and I was able to learn something through every difficulty she faced. I also enjoyed reading about Athena's very Greek family. They seem like they all would be a lot of fun to spend time with! And Athena and Stephen? Well, you will just have to read this book and find out - because I highly recommend it!

Legal Necessities: I received a free copy of this book from the author and publisher. Thank you, Janice!

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## **Margaret Chind says**

Pretty much everything that I said for Stars Collide, the first in the Backstage Pass Series is still true in considering Hello Hollywood our new second in the series. My journey with books by Janice Thompson started in Contemporary Romantic Comedy, went to Historical Romance and even dipped into Young Adult Fiction. When I found myself with another opportunity to jump into a new Contemporary Romantic Comedy series I knew that I would be with pure delight during this read and I was not mistaken.

This new series “Backstage Pass” is an opening into a wonderful new world we had a taste of in the last Weddings by Bella book and in one of Janice’s historicals Love Me Tender. Now we are full fledged into the Hollywood world and it is a thrill. The characters come off the page as real life persons that have it all with mystery and romance and best of all a Christian faith in a difficult environment.

Although I was not expecting a character shift like many other series that I read, since Weddings by Bella was all from Bella, this was great and entertaining from beginning to end.

Anyone can pick up a book from Janice Hanna Thompson and expect a light-hearted romantic thrill with laughs here and there. I highly recommend them all!

\*Thanks to Revell Books for providing a copy for review.\*

Originally posted: <http://creativemadnessmama.com/blog/2...>

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## **Amanda says**

Good, fast read and a Christian author is always a plus!

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## **Casey says**

I love a good escape into a fun story. Sometimes in life we just need a really good escape and “Hello Hollywood”...I am SO there!

The second novel in the “Backstage Pass” series is a complete package winner. I felt a bit like I was living on a “Dick Van Dyke” set and it was so fun. There was a bit of writer’s humor which I couldn’t help chuckling at, and Janice Thompson writes situational comedy so well.

I first got to know Athena in the first novel, “Stars Collide” and I was so thrilled to read her story. Her big Greek family is a hoot and the sparks between her and Stephen...ooo boy. The romance is sweet, but on fire!

But what I loved most about this book is not only the great escape, fun setting and lovable characters, it was a sweet story from beginning to end. Just enough tension to keep the story moving and me as the reader invested, and more than enough humor to keep the story entertaining. There is something fun and addictive about getting into the head of an ever so slightly sarcastic heroine.

“Backstage Pass” is one of new favorites by Thompson, bested only by her “Weddings by Bella” series. She combines great situational humor, setting and faith and I know I’m always in for a delightful read. It might not always be realistic, but that is what makes it fun! You’ll laugh and love, hopefully as much as I did.

This review is my honest opinion. Thanks to the publishers for my copy to review.

**\*\*Available September 2011 from Revell, a division of Baker Publishers\*\***

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## **Angelc says**

3.5 Stars

If you love sweet contemporary romances, you will really enjoy this book. The romance is very sweet, but tends to take a backseat to work and family drama.

I enjoyed the insider Hollywood view of Athena's screen-writing team. I also sympathized with Athena feeling like the men on her team weren't listening to her ideas in meetings. I felt her frustration at feeling like she wasn't being heard, and it was told in a non-whiny, realistic way.

Since there's a super cute dog on the cover, I was happy to see that Zeus had a decent sized role in the book. It always feels like false advertising if there is a cute animal on the cover, but not in the story.

Sometimes, the book felt like it was written for a bit of an older audience than myself. That is great, but it might be why I personally didn't completely enjoy it. The romance especially seemed skewed to an older reader.

Overall, this is a cute book with a nice romance and lots of family fun.

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book sent for review by the publisher

reviewed for <http://inthehammockblog.blogspot.com>

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## **Laura says**

Title: HELLO, HOLLYWOOD

Author: Janice Thompson

Publisher: Revell

September 2011

ISBN: 978-0-8007-3346-9

Genre: Inspirational/romance

Athena Pappas is the head writer on Stars Collide, a sit-com on television. But ratings are going down, and the best ideas that she and her team of writers are coming up with are old reruns that have already been done somewhere else.

When Athena's boss, Rex, decides to hire a new comic to work on the writing team none of the writers are quite sure what to think. Athena is afraid she's being replaced and wonders if she should just plan to work at her parents' restaurant.

When Athena's great aunt (with the same name) dies, she leaves Athena a strange little Greek dog that wrecks havoc in Athena's parents' house. She promises to find a new home for the dog, never dreaming that Stephen would take it for his little girl, Brooke. Now the pooch is pampered and Athena feels her life is out of control. Why is Stephen there? Is he after her job? Or is he after her heart.

HELLO, HOLLYWOOD is the second book in Ms. Thompson's Backstage Pass series, but it easily stands alone. Set in Hollywood, it is stock full of movie stars, blitz and bling, and plenty of drama.

If you like a good romance with plenty of comedy mixed in then HELLO, HOLLYWOOD is a book to consider. Not to mention there is a fun "special feature" included at the end of the book. \$14.99. 280 pages.

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