



The Cake

A.J. Llewellyn , Serena Yates

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Baking the best cupcakes in San Francisco is Daine's true calling...who knew that the tastiest cakes could lead to a talent for danger?

Phillip Sedgwick is a lawyer who works for an unusual law firm: Arden, Bainbridge, Chinook and Damek is the supernatural world's most prestigious company, protecting, and often prosecuting, members of the supernatural world for various crimes and infractions. His latest case involves the owner of Fabulous Cupcakes, Daine Paradis, who has been accused of abuse of his superpowers.

Daine is proud that he's been able to keep his father's bakery going and has made it a huge success. Weird things start happening, and hard work no longer seems enough to stay in business. When he meets Phillip the sparks fly, but will the two men be able to solve the case before everything goes up in flames?

Reader Advisory: This book contains mouth-watering descriptions of cupcakes and hot references to other foods.

The Cake Details

Date : Published April 4th 2011 by Total-E-Bound

ISBN : 9780857155115

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Format : ebook 158 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Fantasy, Paranormal, M M Paranormal

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From Reader Review The Cake for online ebook

EscaPe iNTo thE PaGEs says

I so want to take up baking now! I could totally get down on all those yummy cupcakes. This story had a lot of sex scenes between the MCs Daine and Phillip and I glossed over some to keep the story light but the overall story was well written. Daine is the owner of a bakery with supernatural talent and Phillip is apart of a law firm who is investigating him. Both are very likable characters. I am really interested in reading more about the elements and how they will be used in the series.

Clover says

nice supernatural story with a lot of cakes !!

Eiko Kazama says

First of all, toward the end of this book, Ben became one of my favorite characters. I laughed to tears at how he spoke to Judge Sexby about the flaming chair and Daine's dorky past.

This book was full of surprises, something not always found in books. One moment I'm full of anxiety, and then the other I'm suddenly laughing.

As any great book, we can't put it down; it draws you in and makes you stay on its lap, listening to it until the fairytale ends or you force yourself to stop for a breath. As for the characters, their personalities are well developed and strong, as well as their interaction.

This is a truly remarkable book. I recommend it to someone who's seeking a good laugh and the will to slap the bad guys so badly.

Cole Riann says

Phillip Sedgwick has been a junior associate at one of San Fransisco's supernatural law firms for six months. As a cover, he also teaches law at a local college. The work is strenuous and Phillip often feels like he's signed his life away over to the senior partners. He must come at their beck and call, and when he is given a week to pursue an investigation into the illegal activities of Daine Paradis, who owns the bakery Fabulous Cakes just around the corner from his job at the university, he knows that it would be unwise to refuse. So, with a week to pursue finding evidence to move forward in prosecution of Daine, who is alleged to be using his supernatural power for fire to make his cupcakes the best in the city, Phillip finally gets his chance to taste the cakes he's heard so many wonderful things about. What he finds when he gets to Fabulous Cakes, however, is not only a man who seems to take pride in being the hardest worker at his business, and completely unaware of his powers, but a sexy, caring, honest, and humble man that calls out to him in every way. Now, unsure of exactly who is putting pressure on him to find that Daine is breaking Superpower Law, he is forced to carry out an increasingly dangerous investigation, while at the same time unable to stay away from pursuing a relationship with Daine.

Daine has loved to bake since he was a little boy. Not only is the creation of new flavors and the act of making them his passion, but he loves the affect they have on his customers and the community. Supporting the local Girl Scout troop, as well as gearing up for the annual baking competition, whose previous two winners now have national chains of their stores, is a full time job. Since he has taken the bakery over from his father in the last three years, he hasn't had time for dating. Keeping the business completely aboveboard, specifically in the interest of making sure his workers all have proper documentation is difficult, especially since his deliveries have recently stopped coming and his bakery has been broken into on numerous occasions. Despite all that, his hard work has paid off — there are daily lines around the corner from his bakery for his daily confections, and a new man he likes to think of as Mr. Gorgeous has been stopping by to taste his cakes and flirt with him. Daine really likes Phillip, but he hates lawyers after his parents up and left him for Venezuela years ago after some kind of legal trouble with his uncle. Everything seems to be going right, until he realizes in one day how everything can go completely wrong, and how little you can know about those who love you.

This is a short novel which only slowly allows room for world-building (more on that later), so the pace of the story moves quite fast. I really liked the characters — Phillip is passionate and driven, though possibly in over his head, and Daine is impossible not to love. I worry sometimes when a character seems to be perfect in every way, but I didn't feel like this was the case here for two reasons. The first is much of the story is told from Phillip's POV, which is admittedly admiring, as he is falling in love with the man, and secondly, Daine is so unfailingly honest and humble that it made sense for him to be a sort of shining light, a genuinely good person. I was also happily surprised that the book is more about two men who really try to work together and help each other, instead of (in Daine's case) angsting about what was going wrong in his life.

I had a difficult time reading this story at first. I immediately liked the characters, and I loved Daine, but I really didn't quite understand what was going on. Was this magic they were talking about? The world-building is sparse, which I usually prefer to being beaten over the head with backstory. Still, because I liked the growing romance between Phillip and Daine, I kept reading and I found that the answers slowly came. By the end of the story, I could see that this is really only the beginning of understanding the world of the Elemental Superpowers. Hopefully, the next few books will center on the other elements — water, earth, and air, and the development of the world will proceed to grow. The advancement of the world-building arc really makes a lot of sense, in the aspect of the overall series. Of course, I would have loved to know more about the world. At times, I also wondered actually what the dilenations in the law were (Was it the success of his bakery? Is using his powers at all a violation?), or to hear more about Phillip's backstory, but they weren't necessarily important to the story, and I admit, I'm probably alone in wanting to hear more about specific laws!

Still, this was an enjoyable read and I'm looking forward to the next book in the series. I've read quite a few books by both of these authors before, and I was curious to see the result of a working partnership between them. I have enjoyed their books separately and I found that I could see a bit of both their styles in *The Cake*. Most important though, to this baker and owner of a major sweet tooth, were the frequent and imaginative references to different flavors of cake. Yum! Even though it might sound strange, I'm starting to wonder about that Buttery Popcorn Cupcake...

I think that fans of both authors would enjoy *The Cake*.

For the original review, please visit [Reviews by Jessewave](#).

Victoria says

I really enjoyed this story. It was a light, fun and sweet paranormal story. With all of the cupcake descriptions, I might have to treat myself to one soon. Now if I can only find a bakery that makes the pancake and bacon cupcake :)

Belinda says

I just finished reading this book this morning. I love Daine and Phillip, they are my new favorite couple. I also think these two authors together shine like a new penny. They're wonderful. As for the book itself, what a thrill and what a hoot! I'm so happy to have a new series to look forward to with the upcoming titles in this supernatural powers series. 'The Cake' is hilarious and also very moving from the opening scenes.

I thought at first that the book 'The Sex Life of the Shoe' referenced in it had to be made up, but I checked online and it's real. I have now ordered it from Amazon because I'm obsessed with why people wear certain shoes.

This story intrigued me and the food made me hungry. I'm in trouble because I see baking and shopping for boots in my future.

In some ways the storyline is a pleasant throwback with the idea of good versus evil. In other ways it's modern and fun because of the gay characters. Even Daine's father is gay. I am raving and I'm sorry but I can't help it. I loved this book and the many layers it brings, weaving the unseen, secret world of super powers with the earth-bound, workaday world. Kind of like...a cake!!!

I laughed out loud at the actor who is sentenced to a kind of purgatory in the fire court and is forbidden to make TV appearances. It made me think of all those actors we see getting out of control in real life.

I can't wait for book two and hope it's coming soon. Hint, hint A.J. and Serena!

Cotilla says

It's interesting, although being the start of a series I thought it would be more about world-building. There are books that can pull it off with little to no world-building, but regretfully The Cake isn't one of them. Also, it seems a little... rushed, and that is a feeling I have with most of Serena's books I've read.

Galia says

1.5 stars

Jennifer says

Scrumptious!

Janet says

It was goodish kinda sorta. There were holes in the plot so large you could drive a Mack truck through and still have room for an 8 point turn, when Phillip tell Diane about the whole superpowers thing, his entire reaction, consists of Diane thinking it was a bit much but Phillip "didn't look like a crazy man" and his fater is spewing hate and virle in one minute, he finds out in the three years of estrangement that his parents divorced, mother re-married and Dad's shackd up and his entire reaction lasts about as long as it takes to go "well huh. There are many more but that makes my point.

Marsha Spence says

Excellent read. Great story. All the descriptions of cupcakes made me HUNGRY! Enjoyed the storyline very much. Well developed characters.

Serena Yates says

Released today at Total-E-Bound, this is the first book in a hot new m/m series that I'm writing with A.J. Llewellyn. Needless to say, the reader advisory is to be taken very seriously: "This book contains mouth-watering descriptions of cupcakes and hot references to other foods."

Anyway, back to the series: Elemental Superpowers have existed since the beginning of time. Their sources are Fire, Water, Air and Earth. Certain members of the supernatural world are linked to these forces – exhibiting the special ‘talents’ caused by them. The Secret Council is in charge of keeping law and order – with the help of Branch Councils that make laws, a Superpower Court that upholds those laws, and Elemental Marshals to enforce them.

Each story in this series explores one of the Elements – what can go wrong when they are abused, how the natural world reacts when superpowers come into play, and the lengths to which some will go to remain hidden from view.

This first book is about Daine Paradis, who bakes the best cupcakes in San Francisco. When he gets accused of using Superpowers that he doesn't even know he has, Phillip Sedgwick is handed the case. He works for an unusual law firm: Arden, Bainbridge, Chinook and Damek is the supernatural world's most prestigious company, protecting, and often prosecuting, members of the supernatural world for various crimes and infractions. Daine is proud that he's been able to keep his father's bakery going and has made it a huge success. Weird things start happening, and hard work no longer seems enough to stay in business. When he meets Phillip the sparks fly, but will the two men be able to solve the case before everything goes up in flames?

If you are interested, you can find an excerpt and purchase the e-book at Total-E-Bound.

We hope you will enjoy reading this book, and its future sequels, as much as we enjoyed writing it.

Byron says

Well, definitely an interesting perspective on a popular baking item!! Who would have thought of adding law would make it spicy..

I like the two leads they seem like genuine types of guys.. The story just rolls along quite nicely with no obvious plot holes.. Even the love scenes played nicely in this.. Although I did gloss over a couple, just because I didn't think they were really needed at that point to the story.

Definitely something light and enjoyable, sort of like a really good cupcake.. light and sweet!

Lena Grey says

'The Cake' by A.J. Llewellyn and Serena Yates is one of the most entertaining books I've read in a long time. It has everything—romance, intrigue, humor, and mentions cupcakes so many times that I think I gained five pounds from just reading about them. The timing of the story is well structured in that the reader only knows what Daine and Phillip know at any given time. Holding back information created a great deal of suspense, and thus, a larger reveal later. The witty, tongue-in-cheek humor kept me giggling from beginning to end. The paranormal activities are cleverly woven into the fabric of ordinary life, representing the notion that they exist side-by-side rather than in different realms. Their connectivity allowed the action to move from one to the other with ease.

All of the characters in 'The Cake' are unpredictable and quirky in deliciously unusual ways, only adding to the fun. The main character, Daine Paridis, is talented, dedicated, considerate and unassuming. His relationship with Phillip begins as mutual admiration which quickly grows into affection. After becoming lovers, Daine and Phillip don't just 'do it', even in their first tryst, they make love, with a mutual respect that is touching. One thing I found amusing about Daine is that he thinks of everything in terms of food, even in describing people. This is how he sees Phillip for the first time: "He was at least six-foot-four, had deep brown eyes the colour of bitter chocolate and short, liquorice-black hair, which was the perfect topping for his milk-chocolate coloured skin." A description like this would make anyone sound yummy.

Phillip Sedgwick is witty, charming and thorough. He is a by-the-book kind of guy who is dedicated to his work, but not to the exclusion of doing what's right. Even though he's the prosecuting attorney for the case against Daine, when he realizes that the accusations are false, he does what he can to ensure that the truth will prevail. His relationship with Daine was inspiring. It felt so real. It's such a tender, sensual component of the story that it balanced out all the other madness. I couldn't help being emotionally involved with the couple and backed them all the way.

'Elemental Superpowers I: The Cake' is the first in a series four books which feature the four elements, fire, water, earth, and air. Now that I've gotten so much enjoyment from the first book, I'm anxiously awaiting the other three. If you enjoy a tender story in which love and justice prevail, then chances are, you will enjoy 'The Cake.'

NOTE: This book was provided by Total-E-Bound for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

Ashley says

Loved this! I totally feel that it is worth a full 5 Stars and I cannot wait for the next in this series.
