



## Wedding Tiers

*Trisha Ashley*

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## Wedding Tiers Trisha Ashley

The path of true love never runs smooth. But for some, it's one seriously bumpy ride...

Josie Gray and her childhood sweetheart Ben Richards always dreamt of living a life of rural bliss. And when Josie inherits her beloved Grandmother's cottage in Neatslake, Lancashire, it seems they might have got just that.

Josie throws herself into her wedding cake business, whilst Ben gains increasing acclaim as an artist. The tranquil village turns into a hive of activity when Josie's childhood friend Libby Martin returns to the village, planning a lavish wedding to rival any celeb bash.

But amidst all this romance, Josie's fairytale relationship with Ben turns into a nightmare, and she quickly becomes Love's number one cynic – until charming wedding photographer Noah Sephton arrives in Neatslake with a very different outlook on love...

A heartwarming new romantic comedy from Sunday Times bestselling author Trisha Ashley

## Wedding Tiers Details

Date : Published (first published 2009)

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Author : Trisha Ashley

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# From Reader Review *Wedding Tiers* for online ebook

## Lynne Easy says

Lovely, easy chic lit read - recommend for feel good, happy story reading.?

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## MB (What she read) says

Last read 6/19/09:

All of Trisha Ashley's books have, more-or-less, the same standard plot. But it's the getting there and the crazy/fun characterization that makes them so enjoyable!

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## Rachel Cotterill says

Josie, the heroine of *Wedding Tiers* has a talent with sugarcraft and is enjoying well-deserved success with her wedding cake business. At the start of the book she's also living comfortably with her childhood sweetheart, although it's obvious to everyone except her that there's something out of balance in their relationship.

Unfortunately, I found Josie's character and actions hard to believe in places. She goes from naively optimistic to (supposedly) hardened cynic, and back again, in the course of a few months. I just wasn't convinced by her decisions; the book focused too heavily on the set-up and Josie's collapsing relationship with Ben, and didn't spend enough time building her new relationship with Noah. She also thinks she's unattractive, and then suddenly has men throwing themselves at her the moment she's single, which didn't seem entirely plausible.

However, this has a number of the aspects I've come to enjoy in Trisha Ashley's novels: a small Lancashire village, a project to restore a somewhat dilapidated country house (although unusually this time it doesn't belong to the heroine or her love interest), and characters who enjoy gardening and creative careers. The elderly inhabitants of the village were great fun characters, and Noah was a charming suitor - I just would have liked to see more of him.

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## Mel says

This is my least favorite Ashley I've read so far. I really didn't care for Josie, the heroine who is in every scene of this book since it's in first person. She is supposedly "living green" and building imaginative cakes, but a lot of it just isn't plausible. And the story is just no good. At her HEA the hero gives her a diamond engagement ring when he proposes, and she melts for it. Ah any person who lives a sustainable ecological lifestyle would recoil at being offered a "blood diamond". Many instances like this happened throughout the story that took me out of the book. There is also too much wedding and cake building stuff, that I did not care about. Josie interactions and responses to people she comes in contact with is so damned naive that it made her look stupid instead of charming. She took care of the whole village and I could tell that they loved her

very much, but she seemed to be apart from them for most of the story it was like she was in service to them and not part of the "family". And....the author never made be believe or understand WHY all these gorgeous men were hot for the frumpy garden hippie. I liked Noah, but I didn't buy his premise for staying in Neatslake. This book was very messy, you know like a newly formed compost pile.

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### **Susan says**

Another enjoyable book from Trisha Ashley. She writes credible characters and has intriguing plots. This one, as often, includes weddings and baking - in this case, wedding cakes, thus neatly combining Trisha's main themes! The heroine, Josie, is married (to Ben, an artist) when the book opens, but that breaks up - most dramatically - part way through and the rest of the book is about how she adjusts and her next relationship.

I liked that the book, while mainly about Josie, also included Josie's friend, Libby - Trisha writes very good ensemble books. It's a satisfying read and I enjoyed the drama and the new relationship.

But as always, once I finish this kind of book, I have doubts. After being involved with Ben for so long - since she was 13 - would she really have fallen for and married someone else so quickly? a matter of months? Surely that's a rebound relationship! But they do seem better suited, so who knows? Other questions were more about what might have happened next - Ben moves back to their village after the divorce, what effect might that have? I enjoyed speculating, which, if nothing else, probably shows that Trisha does indeed write convincing characters.

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### **Lin says**

Fabulous

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### **Molly says**

This was so much better than the last book of hers I read.

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### **Laura Raines says**

3.5

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### **Nikki Brown says**

This book took me longer to get engrossed in than others by this author. Usually by the end of the 2nd chapter I'm hooked but this took me well into the 1st 3rd of the book before I really became engrossed in the story. I'm really glad I persevered though as I enjoyed the story and the characters.

Josie, orphaned whilst young was raised by her Grandmother in a village near Sticklepond (this village features in other books by Trisha Ashley and as such some familiar characters appear in this story too). On her 1st day at her new school she becomes friends with Libby, and their friendship grows stronger through the years although their lives are completely different to each other.

Josie fell in love with Ben at school and they lived together trying to be self sufficient, whilst Ben was an artist too. Josie looks after several of the older members of the village and her and Ben live in her Grandmother's cottage. Josie writes an anonymous blog about life in the country and self sufficiency which is very popular, she also makes weird and wonderful wedding cakes

Libby married older, wealthier men who having passed away have left her a wealthy young woman, she ends up back in the village, next door to Josie.

Josie's life is turned upside down after she discovers something so she has to rethink her life. Libby starts a business and ropes Josie into help.

Will Josie live happily ever after like the couples she makes weird and wonderful wedding cakes for? Will Libby get her happy ending too?

I'm so very glad I persevered over the 1st part of the book as I would have missed out on a great story.

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## **Katie says**

Josie Gray is a thirty-something woman living an idyllic life in the small Lancashire village of Neatslake. She lives in her grandmother's old cottage with her childhood sweetheart, Ben, growing and trading for as much of their produce as possible, and supplementing their income with Josie's weird wedding cakes, her column for the cult magazine *Skint Old Northern Woman* and Ben's occasional artwork sales. When Josie's oldest friend Libby returns to the village and decides to launch a wedding business in the nearby manor house, Josie becomes drawn in to help. However, Ben is spending more and more time in London and soon it transpires that he has been less than honest with Josie, leaving her disillusioned. She vows never to believe in love again, but photographer Noah Sephton seems determined to change her mind.

There are no surprises in this book but, to be honest, I didn't expect any. The plot was formulaic but then it usually is in this type of book, and that was exactly why I read it when I wasn't feeling up to much mental exertion. It's a book which just requires to relax and enjoy being entertained. Because entertaining it is, for all I knew what would happen before I opened the book. Ashley may follow a preordained plot, but the setting in which she chooses to place it is rather lovely. I enjoyed reading about Josie's homely life in the country with her chickens, her bartering and her gardening. Her kitchen activities, making jams and wines and various cakes and biscuits are particularly appealing and the recipes at the back of the book make this aspect of the novel seem particularly real and important, enabling the reader to follow suit if they so choose. Baking is something that I love doing, given half a chance, so I was able to relate to that and it engaged my interest.

The society surrounding Josie is also rather sweet and pleasant to read about. The secondary characters all have individual personalities, from the three eccentric Grace sisters who knit, crochet and embroider for all they're worth to womanising soap star Rob to Josie's loyal uncle Harry who takes great delight in outliving his friends. Although none of them are particularly realistic, they add colour and interest to the story.

If Josie herself were any more dense she would have her own gravitational pull. Even if this hadn't been the sort of novel in which it is a truth universally acknowledged that the seemingly perfect boyfriend with whom the heroine begins the book will turn out to be an utter bastard by the halfway mark, I could have guessed that Ben was having an affair long before Josie does. In fact, she never does manage to guess, despite a number of hints to that effect which are as subtle as being hit with a brick, and eventually has to be told. Later on in the novel she proves equally dim when new romantic opportunities present themselves. Had she not been such a likeable character for other reasons she would have been very annoying, but as it stands she is saved by her sweetness and by the charm and wit she displays in the excerpts from her magazine column which begin each chapter.

I'm not exactly sure what Ashley was trying to add by introducing a subplot of potential incest. It doesn't add tension because this is clearly the sort of pastel covered book in which everything works out for the best and no one gets hurt (except ex-boyfriends, who get what they deserve, naturally), it isn't treated sensitively and seems to be a sort of throwaway plot device which is resolved so quickly and effortlessly that it seems pretty pointless. In fact, I found it rather distasteful and an incongruously serious subject for such a fluffy novel.

Incest aside, I rather enjoyed the distraction from dental pain provided by this light, fun, quick read. It's a good, solid example of the genre and a pleasant way to spend a lazy afternoon when you don't want to think too much.

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### **NicoleHasRead says**

I bought this in the Kindle sale after being attracted by the sample. I really wish I hadn't bothered.

Wedding Tiers introduces us to Josie, recently orphaned, who has moved to the idyllic village of Neatslake to live with her Grandmother, her only remaining relative. There she meets the brusque but oh-so-soft Libby; a girl from the wrong side of the tracks determined to marry well and better her situation. She also meets the handsome Ben, who instantly becomes her friend and later her lover.

We skip ahead a number of years to find Josie and Ben in cohabiting bliss. Libby has married well not once, but twice, conveniently falling in love with rich men. When Josie tells Libby that Blessings, the stately home next door, is for sale, Libby hops on the next plane back to buy it.

Josie soon learns that her perfect life with Ben is all a sham and her neat little world falls apart. Fortunately, a friend of Libby's is there to pick up the pieces.

The storyline was ok but to be honest I didn't enjoy it terribly much. The writing style was not great. It needed some serious editing. Tenses were all over the place and there were far too many exclamation marks.

Josie was, quite frankly, stupid. She couldn't see what was right in front of her face and put up with poor treatment from just about everyone around her. I can excuse naivety, but Josie went beyond that into completely idiotic. Most of the characters were two dimensional archetypes and completely boring.

I really had to force myself to read to the end. The ending had been telegraphed so far ahead that there was nothing to keep me turning pages.

Not recommended unless you are very desperate for something to read.

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## **PrettyFlamingo says**

I've read a few Trisha Ashley books and I like how many of them link together by referring to past characters and situations. They're invariably set in villages in the North West that you'd like to live in yourself and in a community you'd like to be a part of. This follows on from *A Winter's Tale*, which I enjoyed very much and again some of the same characters are mentioned so it feels like you are reading the latest instalment of a serial.

Josie lives in Neatslake with her partner Ben. They've been together since her first day at the local school 25 years earlier, where she also met her best mate Libby. Josie found herself there through a tragedy back home in St Albans following the death of her parents in an accident, so this possibly explains her staying with Ben so long when it is apparent to all of us that the relationship is on the rocks. They live a sort of "Good Life" which suits her down to the ground, and it's in marked contrast to that of Libby, who is twice widowed after marriages to much older, wealthy men but is now back in the village. Great pains are taken to point out that these were real love matches and not gold-digging marriages, and it is done well enough to be accepted. When Libby falls madly in love with Tim (which was a bit unrealistic I thought) who lives in the local Elizabethan pile, she and Josie join forces to set up a wedding reception business. Josie's wacky wedding cakes and Libby's organisational skills soon make for a very successful business and attract a wide range of characters.

So we follow Josie who talks to us as she would to a friend she was writing a letter to. We learn about her thoughts and feelings, insecurities and real emotions. We see that she can't tell what is going on right under her nose because she's either so wrapped up in her village life or is complacent, or a bit of both. But then when it all goes wrong, she's forced into a different way of life and a different way of looking at love and romance.

I loved listening along whilst she made jams, pickles, cakes and told us all about them. And meeting the supporting cast – though some were a bit too far left of eccentric for me. There's a comedy of errors contained in the story, suitors falling over themselves for Josie, and an inexplicable family mystery surrounding Libby that to me added nothing and would have been better left out.

I've read a few reviews of this book and some are rather scathing about the style of writing, but for me it's a definite plus. As with a couple of other books by this author, they are written in a kind of blog or journal style. This leads to a lot of musings, thinking aloud and rather mundane thoughts by the narrator which aren't for everyone, but really work for me. Probably because it feels realistic, whilst not being either great literature or thrill-a-minute. After all, that's what most of our lives are really like, aren't they, if we are being honest? Now does Josie show up in a later book? I need to find that out.

And thanks so much for including the recipe for peapod wine! Going to try that one!

## **Leah says**

Wedding Tiers is my first Trisha Ashley novel and tells the story of Josie, a cakemaker, who lives with her childhood sweetheart Ben. Back in the village is Libby, Josie's best friend and together they start a wedding business. But as the business takes off, Ben & Josie's relationship falls apart and Josie becomes loves number one cynic. Until Noah Sephton arrives on the scene...

I absolutely loved Wedding Tiers. Katie Fforde is quoted on the back cover saying "One of the best writers around!" and she isn't far wrong. Wedding Tiers is told in first person and is a very quick and enjoyable read.

I loved reading about the weird and wonderful cakes Josie made, it was a very interesting insight into cake making. I also enjoyed reading snippets of her 'Cakes & Ale' column at the beginning of each chapter, it was very well done.

I thought Josie was a brilliant character. I found her likeable and thought her narrative throughout the story was well written. I also loved the character of Libby – in the prologue she seemed as if she just wanted money and lots of it but that was completely wrong and she was a brilliant character.

I enjoyed Noah and how he gradually came into the book more and more. He started out a slowburner and turned into a fully fledged character halfway through the novel and I liked that. I liked the sparring between him and Josie.

I found Ben incredibly irritating and undeserving of Josie. I found him shallow and very annoying.

Then there are all the other character – the three Graces, whom I loved; Uncle Harry who was really great and I was worried for him throughout the whole book! I liked he got his happy ending; Dorrie; Tim; Pia.

I really enjoyed how the novel was centered not only on Josie, Libby, Noah and co. but also on the other villagers in Neatslake. It definitely gives a wider view of village life. Not only do we get to read about those in Neatslake but we also read about characters from Trisha's previous novel, A Winters Tale.

The only downside is the fact I should have read A Winter's Tale first as Wedding Tiers does give the ending of A Winter's Tale away but that's not really a problem. Aside from that I loved the book.

I loved how Josie was self-sufficient and willing to take on anyone. I wish Josie could have taken on Ben's mother – she irritated me and she was barely in the novel!

I also like that fact you can try Josie's recipes as they're located at the back of the book. A nice touch from the publishers/Trisha.

Overall it was a very enjoyable read and one I would happily read again. I will definitely be looking out for more of Trisha's novels and can't wait to read A Winter's Tale!

Rating: 5/5

I'd like to thank Trisha and her publisher, AVON, for sending me a copy to review!



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## **Paula Sealey says**

Josie and Ben live a mostly 'green' and idyllic life in rural Neatslake. Josie bakes, makes preserves, looks after Uncle Harry, the chickens and various other people. Ben is an 'on the up' artist, making frequent trips to London. His visits there lead to an event that changes both their lives.

An enjoyable read with interesting characters, although I did want to shake Josie sometimes ;- ) I will definitely purchase more Trisha Ashley books based on this.

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## **Natalie TBGWP says**

What a lovely written book. As you know, I adore books where I can transport myself into the pages and become a part of the story. Trisha Ashley is one of the few people who've been able to do that for me. I fell in love with Josie as soon as I started. I just wanted to hug her constantly and be her friend. The scenes are set perfectly in the quaint little village where she lives. It's like you want to move there yourself. Everyone's friendly and looking out for each other. The perfect place.

The differences her and friend Libby bring to the table enables you to see both characters charm and needs, automatically making you understand how much of a perfect fit they are as friends. Libby brings chaos and much needed laughter into Josie's life where Josie brings calm and normality. A perfect friendship.

You can only feel heartache for poor Josie when she has to deal with Ben's betrayal. The way in which some of her friends treat her after the split really does hit home how hard this is in real life. You're willing so much for the tables to turn and for Josie to be happy, so when Noah comes along you are ready to jump in the pages to shake her repeatedly for turning him away. Broken hearted or not she needs that shake doesn't she?

Sorry getting a bit carried away with myself here.

Noah is handsome, generous, romantic, charming, an absolute must for a broken hearted girl (well every girl) you can't but feel for him as he tries to convince Josie he won't betray her like Ben and is everything she will need. So all in all you will laugh, cry (nearly in the swinging brick cases like mine), fume and thoroughly enjoy this adorable book.

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5/5

A definite read again

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