



Just Like That

Karin Kallmaker

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Syrah Ardani tried independence - but the call of the Napa Valley hills and rolling vineyards of her family's winery have brought her home again. She is content with her ordered world until she learns that her father's feckless management has put Ardani Vineyards into receivership.

Corporate turnaround specialist Toni Blanchard's arrival is preceded by tales of her slash-and-burn techniques. Determined to meet this soulless corporate raider head on, Syrah proudly prepares to do battle for her home and family business.

Toni has reason to retreat from a high-pressure Manhattan lifestyle, not the least of which is a bitter break up. She's been told that Syrah Ardani is attractive and single, but Toni never mixes business and pleasure.

Toni's father wants her to save his old friend from bankruptcy. The court has appointed her to safeguard the creditors. The creditors clamor for a quick sale and payment. The beautiful—and hostile—Syrah wants Toni off her land and out of her life.

Their clashes smolder with distrust and resentment, but also threaten to light a completely different kind of fire. Most dangerous of all is the one thing Toni can't control—the way her heart reacts when Syrah looks at her... just like that.

Just Like That Details

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From Reader Review Just Like That for online ebook

Amanda says

Not very good character development and the connection to Pride and Prejudice made the plot feel contrived.

Loek Krancher says

You're going to love it!

This is not just about wine but also about misunderstanding, a lack of trust, disbelief, and an ex girlfriend with a malicious behavior (I hate that bitch). Fortunately, there is also a lot of love. It is excellently written and I can recommend it to everyone. You won't be disappointed.

Tara says

Just Like That is a sweet, sexy, and funny read. It's hard to say whether it's Karin Kallmaker's best, not only because I haven't read them all yet, but because I've found them to be so very different from each other and I've enjoyed many of them immensely.

Full review: <http://smartbitchestrashybooks.com/re...>

Listen to Les Do Books episode: <http://thelesbiantalkshow.podbean.com...>

Jay Odon says

"Seventeen is prime time."

Syrah Ardani freshly back from a four year hiatus in Europe is ready to take a more active role in her family's vineyard. Unfortunately while she was gone her father trusted some investors but had no way of paying them back and they were calling in what was due them. Enter Toni Blanchard, resolution specialist ordered by the courts to see what can be done to make all parties happy. Their meeting was by chance as Toni was visiting a dear friend who had just bought an estate in the countryside, and her friend, Missy, was dragging her to the annual woman's dance. While introductions were made each woman recognized the other yet never heard the names due to the loud music. With a tenuous judging of all the women Toni and Syrah politely avoid each other, that is until Toni shows up at the vineyard on a Sunday of all days. Trying to get pleasantries out of the way so they next day they can get down to business, the visit was viewed as rude, selfish, and pompous. As Toni and Mr. Ardani conduct business, Syrah is left on the sidelines frustrated for not being able to do anything to her protect her heritage. As the days progress it is painfully obvious that the Ardani vineyard is in real and immediate danger, while Toni is trying to do the best for both parties even though she knows it will eventually fail, Syrah finds an attraction to a woman who she knows nothing about. An anonymous email sheds a little light on the exploits of Toni Blanchard both personal and business

related. Will these women ever realize that they all want the same things, love, business and each other... A taught tale of friendship, family, loyalty, honesty, and love amidst the rolling fields of a storied vineyard that may be on its last harvest...

Kate McLachlan says

This book is a must read for all the lesbian Jane Austen fans out there, and I know there are a lot of you out there. Elizabeth Bennett has the heart of a lesbian, and Jane probably did too. You know she did.

This book takes the story of "Pride and Prejudice", sets it in modern times in California, and turns the main characters into lesbians. The details will delight true fans, from the names chosen for the characters (Missy Bingley? Jane Lucas? And the housekeeper Bennett?) to the evil Wickham wanna-be.

Toni is a greatly misunderstood Darcy, and Syrah lets her have it ala Elizabeth Bennett. It was a lot of fun looking for the tie-ins from the original P&P.

If you aren't a Jane Austen fan, you'll still enjoy the book. It tells the same story Jane Austen did, and you can't go wrong with that, no matter how many times it's told. All good romances follow the pattern to some extent -- misunderstandings, pride, fear of looking foolish, and love.

Ty says

I'm just not really sure anyone should adapt Pride and Prejudice. The original work is so good that any derivative of the work has to be truly excellent in order to avoid falling completely flat. This is okay. It's at its best when it's subtly comparing itself to Austen's work and at its worst when it's being blatant about the similarities. This is the best written book by Kallmaker I've read so far, but I would rather it not be a knock off of a classic.

Liz says

Lightweight romance. Well written. The declaration of love felt a little quick for me, and I would to have seen the ex get some comeuppance as it felt lacking to me. How many times can she be told the money she conned is a gift.

Overall pleasant way to spend a few hours.

Raven says

Good story, though I don't believe it was Ms. Kallmaker's best. Not a big fan of wine or wine lingo... but that's what I get for reading a book about it... even if its only faintly the topic.

Sandy says

An interesting story that takes place in the Napa Valley surrounded by grapes and wine and big estates. The main characters are Toni Blanchard a corporate liquidator and Syrah Ardini, a winery owner whose company is in trouble. From the book you would think that Napa is over run with lesbians as their best friends also meet and fall in love. Throw in a past lover, a current wannabe lover, money and you have all the makings of love lost, love found, love lost again and maybe love reignited. I like the author and her ability to create characters and her ability to express the world of nature around us. And the setting of Napa is outstanding. However, the story seem a bit contrived and makes for a layer of phony substance. Still I'd love a srquel to see how the characters maneuver their fledgling relationships.

Luce says

"Her novels are compared to Jackie Collins works". Exactly. That's the point. Women's literature. You can read and sometimes turn down your eye above the fascinating story :))
But if you like literature, don't read this. Let it be for the years of retirement ;)

Kristi says

More 3.5 than 3.

Love that she mentioned Bolton Landing and Lake George - my old stomping grounds!

Jae Jae says

31-year-old Syrah Ardani doesn't want commitment, and she's not enthusiastic about her best friend's plan to settle down. All Syrah wants is to focus on her family's winery instead. But then she finds out that her aging father made the winery a corporation and is not deeply in debt.

Toni Blanchard, a corporate turnaround specialist, is sent to assess the situation. Toni's lover of two years just left her, and she has no romantic notions left.

When they meet, they don't trust each other. Syrah is downright hostile at first since she thinks Toni is helping to take the family business away from her. Toni is used to doing business without emotions, but this time, she finds it impossible not to get emotionally involved.

"Just Like That" is a solid novel from a writer who knows what she's doing. The characters, especially Syrah, have a life and people in them even before meeting each other. Karin Kallmaker also incorporated the wine lingo nicely—just enough to make me believe that this is really what Syrah does for a living, but not enough to distract or bore the reader.

What I didn't like is the fact that the conflict keeping them apart relies partly on a misunderstanding/lack of communication and trust. And considering that they avoid each other at first, the declaration of love comes a bit soon.

But at least the author has Syrah prove her trust in Toni in the end—a good move!

Editing is always a bit hit-and-miss with Bella Books, but this one is well edited (except for a few comma issues).

All in all, it's a good novel.

Kimberly says

My very favorite Karin Kallmaker book! There's just something about women, wine, and romance.

Charlie Avocado says

Pride and Prejudice, but with a simpler cast, and lesbian relations. Only meh for me.

Patrizia says

I simply loved it. Good for the heart, really.
