



Save the Date

Jenny B. Jones

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You are cordially invited to the wedding of the year with the most unlikely bride and groom. Save the date . . . and say your prayers.

When funding for Lucy's non-profit job is pulled, she is determined to find out why. Enter Alex Sinclair, former professional football star and heir to Sinclair Enterprises—the primary donor to Lucy's non-profit organization.

Both Lucy and Alex have something the other desperately wants.

Alex has it all . . . except for the votes he needs to win his bid for Congress. Despite their mutual dislike, Alex makes Lucy a proposition: pose as his fiancée in return for the money she desperately needs. Bound to a man who isn't quite what he seems, Lucy finds her heart—and her future—on the line.

Save the Date is a spunky romance that will have readers laughing out loud as this dubious pair try to save their careers, their dreams . . . and maybe even a date.

Save the Date Details

Date : Published February 1st 2011 by Thomas Nelson (first published January 12th 2011)

ISBN : 9781595545398

Author : Jenny B. Jones

Format : Paperback 320 pages

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

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From Reader Review Save the Date for online ebook

Cheryl Olson says

Ok I'll admit it, I'm not someone who is easily amused. I truly wish I was the person that laughed at the drop of a hat, but I'm not. With that being said, I want to share that I laughed out loud numerous times when reading this book. Save the Date by Jenny B. Jones at first glance looks like a classic, cute, chick- lit kind of book. I'm thinking, it will be sweet, charming, and a nice read. There is nothing wrong with that, but as I got into the book, I discovered much, much, more- funny, great characters and a "deeper than meets the eye" storyline.

Our heroine, Lucy Wiltshire is sort of a modern day Cinderella. Growing up in Charleston, South Carolina with a mother who earned her living as a maid did not give her social status at the prominent Montrose Academy where she attended as a child, and as a result endured teasing and bullying there. Fast forward to the present and Lucy is the founder of Saving Grace, a home for foster girls aged 18-21 making the transition to adulthood with her help and guidance. A major problem erupts- one of her biggest backers has pulled the plug on their contributions by a significant amount. She is in danger of losing the home and panicked about her girls, where will they go. Poor Lucy, what's a girl to do?

Well, the hero of the story has the answer to that query- enter Alex Sinclaire- a former attendee of Montrose Academy and famous former professional football player as well. He has decided to run for a Congressional seat and Alex needs a little help overcoming his somewhat "Playboy" public perception problem. So after a chance meeting at a local gathering where both are present and pictures are taken of them together, he finds that his approval points have skyrocketed. It seems that the public likes a good Cinderella story and he hatches a plan- a staged romance with a win-win scenario- Alex gets a steady girl on his arm for public events and Lucy gets the funding she needs to keep Saving Grace open. Sounds like a no-brainer for everyone, but add in Lucy's social awkwardness and propensity towards clumsiness and you get some really hilarious situations.

There is so much more going on in this story than the general romance between these two characters. Alex is dealing with grief and guilt over his twin brothers disappearance and probable death. Lucy struggles with feelings of great inferiority and worth as she describes herself at one of the many social events as "a cubic zirconia in a sea of diamonds". They truly go on a journey together in dealing with their respective "stuff". Their chemistry and banter between each other is fun and amusing in one moment and truly deep and probing in the next. Add in Lucy's love of all things science fiction, specifically Star Trek and the book just gets better and better. I couldn't go into detail on the supporting characters here, but they are well written and really, really, funny. When a well known socialite winds up at one of Lucy's gatherings of her sci-fi friends and is asking questions about Star Trek, I about bust a gut.

It truly is rare for me to find a book where I am laughing uproariously in one moment and shedding tears the next, while seeing great spiritual elements in the whole thing. Elements like our struggles with our worth and figuring out the whole man-pleasing versus God-pleasing dilemma. I highly recommend this book. You will not be disappointed and I will be keeping my eye on Jenny B. Jones in the future. I know this is a Niagara Falls kind of review- much gushing- but I still stand by it. Great book, great characters and great read!

I was graciously provided a digital copy of this book by Thomas Nelson through the NetGalley program. All opinions expressed were my own and I was not obligated to write a positive review.

Joy says

This book was stinking hilarious.

There were so many things I loved about it, the snarky banter between the leads, the quirky supporting cast, the romance- oh my stars the romance!

But one thing really stood out after I put the book down. I found Lucy's come to Jesus moment to be fresh and original. It was powerful without being heavy handed and some of the most organic writing I've seen in Christian fiction.

Brandi says

I love the cuteness of this story. I love the humor, and the emotion, and the beauty, and the love. So sweet and light. This adorable story had me laughing and crying. This was a classic chick book.

This is the second book I've read by Jenny B. Jones and I loved it, just as I did the other one (There You'll Find Me , which is actually supposed to come after this one).

I immensely enjoyed the humor. Lucy and Alex's sarcastic quips and teases were unbelievably adorable. That was too cool how they always knew just what to say. So light-hearted and fun.

The romance was awesome as well. I loved how it was portrayed with the varying emotions and the true love. It was so... so... sigh-worthy.

The faith was great as well. It didn't have a Gospel message unfortunately but there were some good messages in there. There was one thing that annoyed me though. The preacher never used the Bible. I mean, he had it there as he preached, but he never opened it. There was no Scripture recited. Motivational message or not, it doesn't mean anything without God's Word.

Honestly, I really don't like the cover. Two stars maybe. I like the idea with the girl up close and the guy faded out. And the rest of the design is fine. I mostly don't like what they did to the model. First, she doesn't look like Lucy. Second, the dress she's wearing does not look very flattering and her makeup is even worse. Pretty as she is, the makeup and silly expression do not help in any way.

(*SPOILER ALERT!!!*)

Lucy was the classic girl. She had the normality with her hesitancy to step out of her comfort zone, her quirkiness with her love for science fiction and all things fantasy, her good with trying to save girls and help people, her insecurity with her varying feelings for Alex. She was totally the traditional girl that I could relate to. I really enjoyed that.

Alex was just to awesome for his own good. Too handsome. Too romantic. Too sweet. Too charming. Too funny. Too cute. He was just too everything. I loved seeing his pain, once he finally opened up. He was just so sweet and sad. And that beautiful moment in the rain with Finley was just adorably sweet. If I hadn't already been desperately in love with him, I would've fallen then.

Clare was actually really sweet. At first she seriously annoyed me and I thought she was a jerk. But then I saw part of her, not just Lucy's delusion of her, and she was just a dear old woman who was desperate for forgiveness of past wrongs and acceptance from her granddaughter. She was really great.

Julian was... weird. Like really weird. But he was so funny too. His whole role as Clare's ridiculously hilarious sidekick was simply too amusing. At times I wasn't really sure he was all there, because he seemed awfully strange for a guy. But maybe they're just different in Charleston.

Marinell was sweet too. Her façade of the ungrateful, cynical teen was so abruptly peeled away with her concern for her little brother and her mother and father. They were all such a great family. I'm glad they can now live in peace and that Carlos is all right.

Matt was a good guy. Really bad for Lucy, but still a nice guy. I was seriously getting annoyed with his whole remind-Lucy-that-she-loves-me-and-not-Alex thing. That was getting on my nerves.

Alex's family was wonderful. His parents were so sweet and kind and sensitive to his needs. And Finley was just waiting for him to show that he loved her in the slightest way. How he kept pushing them away was so utterly heart-breaking.

Morgan and Chuck were really sweet. Their support and humor was greatly appreciated. All of Lucy's Hobbit friends were just too funny. So nerdy and fun and weird.

Yep, this'll be one I read again. Eventually. After I tackle my 50 foot long TBR pile, Alex-Sinclair-style. ;)

Alicia says

Once again Jenny B. Jones had me in tears- either because I was laughing so hard or because one of her messages really spoke to me. How does she do it?! Loved this book so much!

Nicole O'Dell says

Blast you, Jenny Jones! Don't you know I have stuff to do? How am I supposed to get anything done when you write books like this? I woke up worried about Lucy last night and have been reading every spare minute today. My laundry is piled up around me. The dishes are fermenting in the sink. The coffee pot is drained. Sigh.

Thanks a lot.

By the way, where's book two?

Casey says

I expected big things from this book.

Every single one was fulfilled to the utmost! The hero is hunky, the heroine, a bit clumsy, but how she sees the world, gives it a skewed, humorous tint. The plot is perfectly laid out and when I thought the author had used her bag of tricks right away to make it worse, something happened to put Lucy and Alex more at odds.

I love marriage of convenience stories, but this was an engagement of convenience. Great angle! You just about can't get a better contemporary hero than Alex, my goodness I just about swooned while reading. The emotional tug-a-war between Lucy, Alex and her old boyfriend Matt was played perfectly and without clichéd drama. The dialogue- wowza! Snappy, quick witted and oh so good. I wanted to read it over just to taste the emotion again.

I don't know what was up between Clare and Julian, but I got more than one chuckle out of those two, my favorites! Clare's "bucket list" and Julian's snarky comments wouldn't be able to fly in any other book, but

was perfect here in just the right situation. I plain loved it.

I'm a fan of Jenny B. Jones. Pass the back list, because I intend to go read more!

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

Katie W says

Lucy is trying to save her home for troubled girls and the answer falls into her lap when a guy from her past, Alex, who is a former pro football player and is now running for Congress, comes up with a deal--he'll give her the money if she'll pretend to be his fiancee. Little did she know, this deal would soon become more than she bargained for.

Lucy's mother died and she never knew her father and she really relied on her sci-fi group of friend, The Hobbits--they are quirky and fun. The supporting characters are a riot--I think my favorites are Clare and Julian, especially the latter. He had me laughing. I really loved the banter between Lucy and Alex. He's every girls' dream, yet Lucy really gets in and gets to know the real him. Lucy is far from perfect, yet Alex finds that she really stands out. I'll definitely be looking for more of this author's works.

Content: no language or violence; some innuendos, but otherwise clean.

Chantel says

My all time favorite! ♥ ♥

Ruth says

Lucy Whiltshire returned to Charleston determined to make a difference, founding Saving Grace, a home for girls who've graduated from the foster care system but are not yet equipped or unable to make the transition to adulthood and caring for themselves. She's determined to prove to the society blue-bloods that rejected and marginalized her during her own teenage years that she and the girls she's desperate to save are more than the sum of their antecedents. But when funding for her non-profit is unceremoniously pulled, Lucy stands in danger of failing her girls and joining them on the streets. Desperation drives her into the arms of Alex Sinclair, heir to the very firm that pulled her financial support and one of the Charleston blue-bloods that excelled at making Lucy feel so very inferior as a teen. Locked in a heated Congressional race, Alex desperately needs to shake his former playboy image if he hopes to win over voters -- and a relationship with Lucy might just do the trick. He makes a shocking proposal -- in exchange for posing as his girlfriend and eventual fiancee, he'll provide Lucy with the money she needs to save her girls home. Despite his movie star-looks, Alex couldn't be farther from Lucy's romantic ideal -- but with the future of her girls on the line, she agrees to play the doting girlfriend. With both their futures riding on a romantic con, under the glare of a media spotlight two individuals who can't stand each other confront the truth that there's more to each other than first meets the eye -- and the irresistible sparks that fly when opposites attract.

Save the Date is without a doubt one of the best romance novels I've read in ages -- it marries all of the comfortable trappings of a romantic comedy with unexpectedly, well-meted powerful moments of spiritual truth. I've long been a fan of the author's blog, where one can appreciate her well-drawn sense of humor and wit, but I've yet to dive into her novels -- an error I hope to soon rectify. Save the Date is replete with Jones's trademark humor and pop culture references. Despite their disparate backgrounds, Alex and Lucy prove worthy sparring partners -- Lucy, sure in her certainty that Alex is nothing more than a pretty face who could never forsake his playboy-ways, while for his part Alex quickly learns to love baiting his fake fiancee, enjoying her easily-riled temper. But beneath their surface differences and wildly disparate upbringings, Lucy and Alex discover in each other a fellow wounded soul in desperate need of grace. While the arrangement Alex proposes is at first blush extreme, and worthy of the lightest-weight Hollywood blockbuster, the manner in which Jones uses the tropes of an arranged marriage (in this case, fake engagement) to force her two protagonists together masks the real heart of the novel -- accepting God's freely-given grace.

I love it when God brings a book across my path that reinforces current experiences and/or study -- and in this case I was powerfully struck by Lucy and Alex's respective spiritual arcs and how they related to my pastor's recent sermon on "living declared," secure in the knowledge that as believers God looks at us and sees beloved children, instead of constantly focusing on where we fail. Though the life experiences that formed Alex and Lucy couldn't be more different -- Alex, the son of privilege and money, Lucy, the daughter of a struggling single mom -- both have bought into what I would posit is one of the most insidious lies -- that no matter who you are, what you do, where you've come from, it's never enough. In what is probably one of the best examples of incorporating a faith message into a novel that I've come across, Lucy's outgoing youth pastor friend Chuck lays bare the lie that salvation, God's grace, must be earned over and over. In a society that idolizes perfection, Jones strips the lie that we must live burdened by pasts filled with fear and regret, when all that is required is accepting God's grace, freely offered, and resting in the knowledge that in Him alone are we made perfect.

Lucy and Alex's unexpected love story is just part of this novel's considerable charm. I adored watching Alex and Lucy fall for each other -- Jones pens some lovely, sizzling moments of romantic tension! But she also peoples her storyline with a host of unforgettable, amusing, well-drawn supporting players. I loved that Lucy was a sci-fi geek who had regular meetings with like-minded friends (a.k.a. "The Hobbits") who shared her love of all things Star Trek and Doctor Who-related. Lucy's prickly, recently discovered grandmother Claire is a gem, and Claire's fledgling faith coupled with her secretary Julian's sarcastic commentary provide some of the novel's best moments.

Save the Date is a laugh-out-loud, frothy, warm-hearted confection of a novel that packs an unexpected emotional punch. Filled with unforgettable, wonderfully flawed characters, Jones proves she's a master at spinning a thoroughly enjoyable, escapist romance laced with spiritual truths. Very well done.

Haley S says

Totally awesome novel!!! Can't wait to read more of her books!!

Official Review:

I found my new favorite author! Wow, Jenny B. Jones is an awesome writer. Everything about her writing style is great. I didn't ever want to put this book down.

Lucy and Alex were the perfect couple. Both were great and I really, dare I say it, "connected" with them. And, no, I do not mean the whole weird connection. I just really understood them. Jenny made them like real life people.

And, there was one really cool part about this book! Well, there was more than just one good part about this book. But, all the Star Wars references! I mean, when Lucy's friend tells her, "May the force be with you," you know that it will be an awesome book! And, oh my, some of the regular quotes were just as great. I was laughing so hard throughout this book!

The one negative thing about this book is the cover. I do not like it at all. Okay, so I do like the blurred guy in the background, because it doesn't show the face, but that is the only thing I like about it. The dress on the woman is not at all flattering, definitely not for her. And, it is weird (ish) pose. It kind of overwhelms the picture. I am going to give the cover 1 star. But, oh well, the cover didn't take away from the contents of the book.

Save the Date deserves 5 stars. I loved it!!! I will definitely be reading more of Jenny's books! And, instead of saving the date, you will have to save the weekend. You won't want to put it down!

Title: Save the Date

Author: Jenny B. Jones

Author's Website: <http://www.jennybjones.com/>

Reading Resolution: #13 (I have had this on my "to-read" list for the longest time! Maybe even for a year or two.)

This review is written in my own opinions and words.

Renee says

Looking for fun, faith, football and some knock-off designer pumps? look no further than Jenny B. Jones's Save the Date. I absolutely loved every word of it. From the first zinger dished out by sassy Lucy to the tender moments with her "Han Solo" I was hooked. Lucy's a bit insecure, she's clumsy, she's a Trekkie and she's a size twelve (a ten if anybody asks). I challenge you to find a real girl who isn't at least one of these things...yeah doubtful. Lucy is a great heroine in a world where so much emphasis is placed on looks and not much else.

For me Christian fiction doesn't get much better than this. I was laughing the entire time and not a second of it was cheesy. In a word, Save the Date is brilliant. At times I wanted to pull my hair out and I even said out loud, "Just admit that you like each other already!" That is the best kind of story though, right? After that first moment when Alex and Lucy realize there could be more to their relationship than the show they are putting on for the public it just gets better and better.

If you're a true sucker for romance I'm sure you will agree that this is one of the better love stories out there. Save the Date is a light, entertaining read. I can't wait for There You'll Find Me which features Alex's baby sister, Finley! October 2011 are you here yet?

Bluerose's Heart says

Save the Date was a fun, light romance. I think with some of my other reviews, I've said that many times those types of books are the ones that end up on my favorites list. I enjoyed every moment of reading this book! I loved how quirky Lucy is. She's very clumsy and loves any and all science fiction. She even has a group of friends called "The Hobbits."

I think my favorite characters ended up being Clare and Julian. I found myself laughing out loud at many of their scenes. And of course, with the pregnancy hormones, it's official. I can't read a book without crying! This story was just so incredibly sweet at times, I couldn't help it.

I was very happy with the ending. Books that I've read lately all seem to have the same trend going with a "surprise" ending. I actually expected that from this book, but I liked the way the author takes this story. And I know the cover has nothing to do with how good a story is, but I LOVE the cover of this book and Just Between You and Me. The girls are just so cute and real. It's refreshing, for me, anyway.

I had fun reading Save the Date, and I can't wait to read more from Jenny B. Jones.

Lynn says

This wasn't my thing. I wasn't in the mood for a rom-com. Those seem to often be misses for me anyway so don't let the fact this book wasn't for me keep you from trying it. The writing was good if you enjoy these types of books.

Do be aware that this book has heavy religious themes and tone alongside the rom-com for those that don't enjoy that. That was likely part of the disconnect. Though I don't usually mind religious undertones, it seemed a weird hybrid to me and just wasn't for me

One reason rom-coms don't resonate is the way the characters are drawn with such heavy hands. I prefer subtlety. The heroine is the typical clumsy, awkward girl who grew up poor amidst spoiled rich people. Everything about the situation and events she gets into are heavy handed to go with the rom-com feel.

Emilee says

Save the Date is a cute rom-com. The writing is super fun. Lots of sarcastic wit. It was almost too much during the first third of the book but as the characters grew on me it evened out and kept the story hopping along. Alex is charming and sexy. I will miss him. :)

Tina says

Original post at One More Page

I wasn't sure what to expect with *Save the Date* by Jenny B. Jones because if I were to judge this book by its cover, it didn't give me the chick lit vibe. It gave me a romance novel vibe, sure, but not really chick lit. Am I the only one getting that? I want chick lit, but I'm not entirely sure if I wanted a romance novel -- if you get what I mean. Nevertheless, I requested this from NetGalley because the blurb seemed interesting

despite its familiarity, and I heard good stuff about the author on Twitter.

Maybe it's the leftover February air that made me start reading this, and once I started reading, I couldn't stop. *Save the Date* starts with Lucy Wiltshire dancing around her kitchen, preparing a meal for her boyfriend Matt, expecting a proposal coming very soon. However, she was crushed when Matt says he's choosing his job over her, and he had to move away, just as when Lucy can't leave her hometown because she was about to open her foster home for adolescent girls, Saving Grace.

Fast forward two years later, Lucy seems to be doing well, until life decided to throw her a curve ball: she loses funding for her foster home and she needs money, quick. Enter old schoolmate and rich boy Alex Sinclair who was running for Congress. A chance encounter between the two gave Alex a good image for the election, so he proposes to Lucy: they would pretend to be a couple and get engaged to boost Alex's image, and Lucy gets paid to be his fake fiancee, enough to fund Saving Grace for years to come. Left with no choice, Lucy says yes, praying that she wasn't making a mistake. As they play along with the lie, demons from the past surface and they find out that God's plans are higher than our plans and He can work His purpose even in our flimsy human plans.

I was pleasantly surprised by this book. This had the same vibe as *A Billion Reasons Why* but it has less of the Southern drawl and more of real and sympathetic characters. I liked Lucy from the start -- she's a darling, but she was far from a weakling. She's been toughened up by the hardships she experienced in her life and even if she suffers from a big inferiority complex, her heart is always in the right place. I admire her passion for the girls she's caring for and her fierce loyalty to what she believes in, even if sometimes it comes off as stubbornness. While I'm not much taken by Alex's described good looks and his charisma, I thought he was good for Lucy. He is far from perfect which I really appreciated, and I'm sure his faults and his growth in the story is something that other people have experienced. I liked how their relationship developed and how they saw each other in a better light despite the lie that they have built for their image. I lost count at how many times I sighed and wished that they'd realize that they were perfect for each other, and that one of them would make a move that would break the the pretend relationship they have so they could move into something real. Their banter was refreshing and witty, none of the gooey, over the top exchanges that didn't feel natural. I liked that even if it seemed like an outrageous story, everything in the story still felt real, like it could happen to anyone.

This modern-day Cinderella/The Princess Diaries-like story by Jenny B. Jones is definitely worth the read. I can't relate 100% with everything, but *Save the Date* shares important lessons on love, compassion, forgiveness and allowing God to work in our lives, and I think those concepts are pretty universal, anyway. While there's nothing really new in the premise, the characters, their voices and the author's humor shines through in the story, making this a very, very good read. :) I look forward to reading more of Jenny B. Jones' books.
