



Just Say Yes

Alyssa Goodnight

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He's just what she needs... Single mom Jade Moran isn't ready for any big changes in either her horrible '70s kitchen or her romantic life. Her ex did a number on her, and she isn't interested in getting hurt again. But when she meets a super-hot contractor, she wonders if avocado appliances are on the way out and romance is on the way in. Max Gianopoulos doesn't have a clue why he's so enchanted by Jade. She's almost as big a mess as her kitchen, and he's a guy who likes to keep things simple. But Jade has turned up the flirty heat - and he can't keep his hands off her. With everything moving too fast and coming too easy, Jade's insecurities kick into high gear. She's not sure she can trust another man again - and she definitely doesn't believe in happily ever afters.

Just Say Yes Details

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From Reader Review Just Say Yes for online ebook

Sarah Swann says

This one surprised me in such a great way! I wasn't sure what to expect. What I got was attraction, tension, hesitation, setbacks, bravery and taking chances. More than once, the story took a turn and I enjoyed it immensely. And thank you, Alyssa Goodnight for branding the image of Neal Caffrey in my head for the duration of this book...THANK YOU! And I might be adding some extra cinnamon on my oatmeal tomorrow morning...

This book was sent to me by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

BookLover says

ARC requested through Netgalley, and kindly provided by Entangled Publishing in exchange for a honest review.

Cute story with a sprinkle of magic mixed in.

Evie is hoping for a match between her mom, Jade, and Max, their contractor. Jade is reluctant to get involved, but Max's charm and her attraction to him are getting in the way of her resolve.

This book was filled with humour. Max and Jade were really cute together and had great chemistry.

Jade's mention of her Wonder Woman costume and Max's reaction when he finally got to see her in it was priceless.

"Hi," he said carefully. She could tell he was trying hard to keep his gaze locked on her face. "Are you here in an official superhero capacity?"

For a moment, neither of them moved. Then she shook her head slightly and curved her lips into a seductive smile.

"Nope. This is totally unsanctioned."

In addition to Max and Jade, I really liked the secondary characters in the book. Evie and Yia Yia Cleo were great. Everyone's meddling and matchmaking was amusing. And the adventurous eating parties were hilarious. (There is **NO WAY** I would have been participating in some of those challenges!!)

This was a fun read.

Moon Love says

4.5 stars!

I've been a fan of Alyssa Goodnight's writing for some time. She wrote these amazing modern magical retellings of some of Jane Austen's novels that I absolutely loved. They really opened my mind to the idea of realistic magical elements in contemporary fiction. Then there was nothing from her for a while so I was super excited and happy to see she was publishing *Just Say Yes*.

Max and Jade make a fabulous couple. They might not have found each other either without the meddling of Evie, Jade's thirteen year old daughter. Neither of them is looking for a relationship but the attraction to each other is stronger than their misgivings. I loved being in both of their heads and watching them try to be logical and play it safe about their feelings. I liked how Jade was more open minded than she thought. I loved how she was with Evie. She was firm as a parent should be, but she gave Evie lots of love and the understanding it was okay to try new things.

I loved the role family played in this book. It wasn't just Jade and Evie, but Max with his grandmother and sister too. Yia Yia Cleo was a firecracker and I loved her. I loved how Max took care of them even when they it wasn't what he wanted to do. I loved how even though he had misgivings about what his sister was doing with her life, he still loved her. I loved how Max was with Evie. He was kind and friendly, yet also offered her support. He treated her as an adult and respected her wishes. I really didn't like Evie's father and his fiancée. In a way they were sort of responsible of Max and Jade meeting. However they didn't have very many redeeming qualities between them.

Now coming to something unique. I love how food is used in this story. It's sort of like extra whipped cream on your piece of cake or pie. I've always loved food and stories that feature them in some way. I've read very few stories where the food plays an equally important roll as the characters. I definitely can not think of other books where the meaning and characteristics of foods have been discussed. It really made me think about the foods I like to eat and how they might be impacting my life and decisions.

The first part of the book was a little slow. A little over a quarter of the way in, it picked up and I was hooked. I loved how there was a little bit of a book within a book. I would've loved to read more of it. I loved seeing Jade and Evie interact with their neighbors, Elena and Zoe. I loved the descriptive language Alyssa used. The Moran household is bright and colorful and I could almost see it in my head. I'm sincerely hoping this book evolves into a series because I would love to read more about Opal the kitchen witch, and others Jade and Evie met. I can already sense a number of interesting couples. If you're looking for a book that you'll surprise you with how great it is, this book is for you. I hope you read it and experience the magic for yourself!

Misty says

Say "kitchen witch" and I'm there. (Especially when said kitchen witch tells me, personally, that I should eat nasturtiums, which I love...) There's just something so... charming and quirky and endearing in stories around the theme of kitchen witchery, and this was no exception. If you're unfamiliar with the term, it's like magical realism's more universally palatable cousin (and we all know how I feel about magical realism). Think *Practical Magic*. **Just Say Yes** is the *even more* palatable cousin, actually – the kitchen witchiness is

subtle, never beating you over the head with quikry magicfulness, which I imagine many people will appreciate.

If you've been around for awhile, or follow my Austen event, you'll probably already be aware that I tend to find Goodnight's stories equal parts cute, funny, and sexy; they never fail to win me over and put a smile on my face. This was fun and funny and quirky and cute, as expected. There's charm and warmth to her characters, always balanced by a sharp, incisive humor, coated in a veneer of light sarcasm (never bitter or obnoxious, just witty). She seems to do well at fleshing out her casts, too, with great side/peripheral characters that you always want to see more of (which means you're seeing just the right amount of them – always leave 'em wanting more, and all that). There's a great mother/daughter relationship, and other friend and family relationships and interactions that help ground the story and build it up nicely. There *were* times I questioned Max, the male lead, and whether he'd really be so gung-ho about all of the goings on, and the way Jade consistently pushes him away, but I still think it worked – and frankly, maybe that's my own biases clouding my perception of him. But it was never enough to thrust me out of the story or make me dislike either of the romantic leads, or their relationship.

Speaking of the relationship, which is kind of a central focus in a romance, this one was sexy and fast-building in a way that could go really wrong and feel like it's fleeting and meaningless, but it managed to keep from going off the rails into cheesy territory. It's – for the most part – believable, and there seems like a solid-enough foundation and chemistry for it to go somewhere after the book has run its course. Goodnight wisely tests the romance and characters, beyond that initial getting-together/will-they-won't-they. She gives them obstacles, and opportunities to grow stronger together, which is something that really elevates a romance novel for me. It takes it out of the realm of quick fluff, and makes it that much more believable. On top of all that, there's a good streak of nerdery that pop culture/nerdome fans will appreciate. All in all, I'm glad to hear there's more in the series AND I totally want there to be an offshoot business, with recipes and label designs and all of it.

All of the kitchen witchery. All of it.

Carmen Pacheco says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book! It was a bit slow to start, as is the case for cautious single parents, but Max proves worthy of Jade's trust. A joy! Please read my full review at The Reading Cafe on August 25.

? Kimberly says

Five things I learned from reading Just Say Yes

I want to be friends with Goodnight. She is clearly a Geek. She references shows I adore and her characters discuss Superheroes. If she likes coffee and chocolate, we could totally be BFFs.

Her characters are fleshed out, realistic, and unique. If you are looking for cliché characters, you will be disappointed. I loved the secondary characters we meet thanks to Opal's dinners. I would love to see more books develop around this new group of friends. (I also want to recreate these dinners for friends)

At its heart, the tale is a romance, but Goodnight delivers so much more. I became caught up in their

families, their friends and of course Opal herself. I want to spend an afternoon on her porch sipping tea and swapping tales. The angst/tension was low-key with just enough to keep us flipping the pages. The story is memorable from moments of learning to the romance itself. Nothing is rushed and the romance does not rely on tropes. Think contemporary romance wrapped in a "Sarah Addison Allen" type world.

I love the concept of food evoking feelings, boosting your confidence and fueling passion. I have always loved foodie books and enjoyed the unique way in which Goodnight weaved this into the story. I need to get my hands on a *Witch in the Kitchen* cookbook

This is the second book I have read by Goodnight and her stories are memorable. I can still recall characters from *Austensibly Ordinary* that I read in 2013. I have no doubt that two years from now I will still be able to recall in detail *Just Say Yes*.

Just say yes to *Just Say Yes*. A warm, funny, and unique romance you will want to share with friends. This would be wonderful for a reading group. I want to start a group just to talk about it.

copy provided by publisher. This review was originally posted on Caffeinated Book Reviewer

Kae Thomas Hawk says

A reluctant divorced mother, a 70's kitchen, a contractor, the magic properties of food, and one matchmaking teenage daughter make for a good fast paced love story.

Jade agrees to let Max remodel her 70's kitchen after her daughter Evie uses a "yes" to throw them together. Max is very attracted to Jade and lets her know it and not that she isn't attracted to him but she has some let over confidence issues due to her jerk of an ex-husband.

Max does his best to give her space but still flirt with her to know he is interested. Jade doesn't want to be just another notch in his contractor belt. The sparks fly between these two until they eventually give in to the attraction. Once this happens Jane's insecurities kick into high gear and the results are laughable.

The side characters are very entertaining and add some very funny parts to the story. I will never look at a box of good and plenty again without snickering a little.

I enjoyed that this love story had something different. The whole concept of how different types of food could enhance your emotions was unique.

I was given a copy in exchange for an honest review.

Book Gannet says

I really enjoyed this fun, flirty contemporary with an unexpected touch of kitchen magic on the side. This is a very cute story, although it can be a bit confusing at times. Such as at the very beginning when Jade and her daughter Evie meet Opal in a café, then go on to meet Max. The conversation flows thick and fast, but I have to admit I found it a bit confusing to follow, especially all the talk of Yeses, and whether Jade was flirting with Max or not, or if she meant to flirt, or if she didn't, and what Evie had to do with it all.

As I said, confusing. However, stick with it, because despite the occasionally tangled up and quirky style, this book is a lot of fun. Jade is a single mother with a great relationship with her teenage daughter. She hasn't dated since her ex left her (thirteen years ago), but Evie is determined to throw her mother back in the game. Which is where Max comes along. Jade spends a lot of time thinking about what she wants and working out why she isn't going to get it, which can be a bit annoying at times. But the moments when she's stops thinking and just starts enjoying are great – the dialogue is witty, the relationships are fun and the characters are great.

As for Max, he's a man who knows what he wants. And then promptly throws all that aside because Jade intrigues him. I loved how he ended up changing all his plans for her, and that he does it first without thinking and then without really worrying about it. There are a few moments of token resistance, but on the whole he's easy-going, charming and lovely.

Then there are the other characters – so many other characters! I don't mind, because I love characters in all their glorious forms, but I have to admit there might just be a few too many in this book. Jade has her daughter, her ex and his other half, not to mention the best friend who lives next door (and writes an erotic novella). Max has his grandmother and sister, who are both great, interfering fun. Then there's also Opal the kitchen witch and the various characters from the supper club. All of whom have interesting stories of their own. It's all good fun, but perhaps a little crowded at times, adding to the general confusion.

Lastly there's the magic. Food magic, which may or may not be having an effect on Jade's behaviour. She and Evie start out pretty sceptical, and it's hard to know where Max stands on things, but as the story goes on so the magic creeps in a little more here and there. It's not vital to the plot and mostly just helps keep things light and cute, especially when it comes to a certain bag of candies.

So although a touch confusing in some places and rather crowded in others, this is a fun little read. The characters keep things interesting, the romance has plenty of heat and the whole thing just made me smile. With this many side characters hanging around, I hope there will be more from this setting. I want to see how the supper club pairings work out, learn more about Tessa's roller derby career, and see what other magical treats Opal can dream up next.

(I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.)

Wendy's Thoughts says

3.5 Saving Up My Yes-es Stars * * * 1/2

Eclectic...this is what this book felt to me...yet also with purpose.

It had a dash of the mystic/magic through cooking and foods...

It had a single mother who had come up with a very smart way of raising her daughter...

And it had the meeting of a man who was not only capable to remodel her kitchen from a 70's nightmare but also able bring this woman into the present...a present which contained him.

This book had a unique flavor, purpose and way about it... hoping the reader would understand and accept the romance of it all.

There was a strong foundation in the meeting of these two... sparks and interest. There was also, though, a deeper level happening from the start...and I liked them getting to know one another before anything actually happened. The connection between all of the main characters, the love interests and the daughter, worked really well. You could see things developing. The main characters were fleshed out and we were interested in all of the results...with secondary people who added dashes of humor and heart.

An enjoyable read with a thought to finding said magical foods....

A gifted copy was provided by Entangled Publishing LLC via NetGalley for an honest review.

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Alyssa Goodnight says

The blurb I wrote for this book (the official one is by Entangled), which plays up the magical side a bit more...

Jade Moran's chance meeting with kitchen witch Opal Trevalyn is a magical beginning. In just ten minutes she goes from being an unattached, single mom with a hideous kitchen to being introduced to sexy contractor Max Gianopoulos and cautiously considering everything he's offering.

Convinced Max is a player and that she can handle the game, she flirts harmlessly during the remodel. But when things get steamy between them at Opal's Supper Club, and Jade goes home with a bag of treats guaranteed to move things sexily along, she can't resist testing them out—to excellent result.

Within two weeks, Max has essentially moved in, and Jade is astonished by her change in attitude—and warily wondering if Opal's kitchen witchery might be responsible. But when the threat of blackmail looms, it no longer matters—Jade backs away from Max. Until Opal offers up a little unconventional, perhaps even magical, advice.

Lynn says

If you need a little sweet romance, a little slow down from more racy texts, then Just Say Yes would be right up your alley.

Jade hasn't trusted a man since her husband walked out on her when their daughter was only a few months old, but now that baby girl is on the brink of being a teenager and Jade still has yet to accept any man in her life.

Evie (said baby to teenager) isn't happy that her mom hasn't allowed herself to love anyone else again and is on board with Jade's best friend to help get Jade a man.

But it will take a little more than stringing men in front of Jade to get her to open her heart to even the idea of letting a man in. It may take a little magic, home cooking, and remodeling.

Max is a contractor that is ready to take a break from work and focus on his own endeavors of building his house. That is, until Opal, the Kitchen Witch, brings two blondes to his work table in the restaurant he always finds himself at. Not only does Max love to demolish kitchens from the 70's, he also can't seem to help wanting to take the job to just be in the same space as Jade.

Jade isn't one for making snap decisions, but Max rattles her brain and Opal's food seems to put her mind in a place that doesn't allow her to even contemplate saying no to the man. And she agrees to let him take the job of redoing her kitchen.

Jade tells herself that she will be sure to keep to herself while Max is in her house every day, but she manages to always find herself in his orbit. As these two get to know each other more, Jade meets Max's family, and the way everyone takes an instant liking to each other, it is inevitable that Jade's walls begin to break down.

Finally, Jade is letting herself go, take risks, and fall for a man. But magic can't last forever. The original man comes back into the picture with an agenda instead of staying on the outside, giving the minimum (or less) to their daughter. Jade didn't realize until that moment that she wasn't ready to let someone wreck her all over again. But the problem lies within Jade, not others.

Jade has to learn to trust herself before she can let someone in. Can Jade face the issues that have plagued her for the last thirteen years to let Max into her heart? Or will she let him go forever without giving him a chance?

Just Say Yes is a hilarious, sweet romance about learning to trust in the notion of love and magic, that the important people will stick by when things get rough and laugh with you when it's all over.

Jade is sassy, shy, and fierce in her loyalty. Jade's priorities have always revolved around her daughter and the moment she begins to let herself become a priority, Jade and Evie both benefit.

Evie is the caring, fun-loving daughter that only wants the best for her mom and does everything possible to make that happen, no matter how many times she embarrasses her.

Max is responsible, caring, and does everything in his power to make sure he does right by those around him. And we haven't talked about how handsome he is. Irresistible seems to be an understatement.

I enjoyed reading Just Say yes, but the one thing that stopped me from flying through this book was the overabundance of pronouns. Told in third person from Max and Jade's perspectives, I found myself backing up and rereading parts trying to determine who the "he, she/her" that was being referenced.

Fizza says

It was an interesting, funny, romantic and quite magical read. It made me laugh out loud a few times. Plot

was good and it was well-written. I liked all characters but most of all I liked Max. As far as romance novels go this one was among the best. Although sometimes a Little too dramatic but overall a good book for pleasure reading.

Jade is single mom and she hasn't dated anyone in thirteen years, after the betrayal of one man she had trusted. Now her teenage daughter thinks that it is time to date again. Evie has taken matters into her own hands and she is determined to find someone for her mom. She used her "yes" and took Jade for lunch where they meet Max. Soon he is being hired by Jade to work on her kitchen. One thing leads to another and they both realise that it is time for them to give relationship another chance. It was not going to be easy but they are willing to gamble on it...

P.S. I received a complementary copy of this book.

Jessica Alcazar says

I dove right into this story the other night because I knew it was going to be fun and flirty and magical. AND I WAS RIGHT! It was interesting and full of wit and quite romantic at times. I loved every word!

FULL REVIEW closer to publication!

OK....there's nothing I didn't like LOL

It was quirky and funny and romantic and sexy and just plain fun! The story was great, the secondary characters added to the madness and it was hard to put down! That's all you need to know! One-click immediately! #TRUST

ARC provided by Entangled Publishing, LLC via NetGalley for an honest review

Emily says

Jade Moran is not ready to begin hitting the dating pool again, however her precocious daughter has other ideas. When Jade is talked into trying something new, she doesn't realize it will be redoing her kitchen and that the contractor is such a stunning man, she wants to whip out a phone and take a picture.

Mixing business with pleasure can get complicated but there are other forces at work that want to help this potential couple along. Jade has trust issues though and Max wants her trust in full. Will they find a mutual agreement or will past wounds destroy something precious?

Full review on Single Titles
<http://singletitles.com/?p=10940>

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Slick's review posted at Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

I love light, sensual, fun romances and Just Say Yes by Alyssa Goodnight met those requirements and then some. There was much to love about this book from the way the hero and heroine meet, to the power of suggestion that made them take a chance and to the way they figured out how to accept and be together and through it all there was humor, fun, some kitchen magic and a whole lot of people working to make them see being together was a good thing.

As a mom to a teenager girl Jade Moran has put her life on hold to raise her daughter after her ex-husband's departure. Jade insists that she's happy in her life; she has a career she loves, a daughter she is proud of, good friends, and a house that suits her although it is in need of some updating. So when her daughter lures her to a cafe that is out of her comfort zone because who really needs vegetables in their life, Jade finds that her daughter Evie is up to something with the help of a woman she met at the farmer's market while she was with her dad. What she doesn't realize is that Evie and her new friend Opal, an older woman who claims to be a kitchen witch, have done some major matchmaking plotting.

Sitting in his "office" at his favorite cafe Max Gianopoulos finds himself intrigued by Jade and her outspoken daughter Evie. Max just happens to be a contractor and kitchen's just happen to be his specialty and Jade's 70's kitchen is next on her renovate list and soon Max finds himself with a job he really hadn't intended on taking and a woman who enchants him completely.

There is a certain chemistry between Jade and Max from the start but it is evident they are both fighting it for different reasons. I do love how these two "get" each other and enjoy that they can revel in their geekiness with one another. I appreciated that Max knew he had to tread lightly that he sensed Jade's uncertainty and that he knew that getting involved with Jade was a packaged deal that Evie's feelings and life would also be affected. There was no doubt they both had some issues to work through but I loved the support they got from Evie (sneaky young woman), Opal, Max's grandmother, Yia Yia Cleo, his sister Tessa, and Jade's friend, Elena who were quite vocal in their reasons for them to be together or not. Opal's kitchen magic helped them make some pretty big moves that they might not have done had they not had the "excuse" of the food made them do it...LOL!

If you enjoy a solid romance between two adult characters who make mistakes but aren't afraid to admit it and make it right then Just Say Yes is for you. While not without a little drama, this is a light story and just perfect for a beach or by the pool read!

Review copy provided for an honest review.
