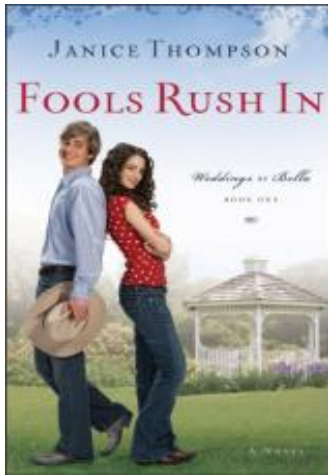

Fools Rush In: Weddings by Bella, Book One

by Janice Thompson



About the Book

Ever wonder how Italian sounds with a Southern drawl? Bella Rossi's life is just starting to get interesting. When her Italian-turned-Texan parents hand over the family wedding-planning business, Bella quickly books a Boot-Scotin' wedding that would make any Texan proud. There's only one catch --- she doesn't know a thing about country music. Where will she find a deejay on such short notice who knows his Alan Jackson from his George Strait? And will Bella ever get to plan her own wedding?

Fun, fresh, and full of surprises, this flavorful combination of Italian and Tex-Mex highlights the hilarity that ensues when cultures clash.

Discussion Guide

1. Bella and D.J. become acquainted after a "happy misunderstanding" related to his name. Has a "happy misunderstanding" ever led you to a new relationship (friendship or romance)?
2. Bella lives with a very large and rambunctious family. What would your life be like if you lived with so many wacky family members under one roof? Think of both the positives and the negatives.
3. Bella lives on Galveston Island, which has been hit by several major hurricanes (including the "big" one in 1900 and Ike in 2008). At the onset of this story, the island is in recovery mode. Have you ever been in recovery mode in your own life after a catastrophic "storm"? If so, how did you recover?

4. This story features the merging of several denominations (Catholic, Methodist, and Charismatic). When you think about the Lord bringing down the walls between denominations, how does that make you feel? What can you do to keep the doors of communication open with friends and loved ones who attend different churches (or no churches at all)?
5. The "sisters" from Splendoria look different than Bella, but they are kindred spirits on the inside. Think of a time when you forged a relationship with someone who was your polar opposite. What did the two of you learn from each other?
6. What did you think of Sister Twila's beauty secrets? Do you have any that you could add to the list?
7. The interaction between Rosa and Laz is strained (and boy, do they love to bicker), but there is a strange undercurrent there that speaks of deeper feelings. What do you think about the real relationship between these two?
8. Bella is a little insecure and wonders if she will be able to take on the role of wedding coordinator without driving the family's business into the ground. Has life ever presented you with an opportunity to do something so big that you worried you might fail? If so, how did it work out in the end?
9. D.J. has a heart of gold and gets along with everyone. What can we learn from someone like this?
10. Bella and D.J. have very little in common, and yet they seem to be perfectly suited to each other. Why is it that opposites attract?
11. Humor is a great way to overcome life's obstacles. How has the Lord used humor to get you through some of the challenges you have faced?
12. Think about the role Guido played in this story. Do you really think it's possible for the Lord to use a pet to "speak" into someone's life?
13. If you had to choose between Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin, who would you choose?

Author Bio

Janice Thompson is a seasoned romance author and screenwriter. An expert at pulling the humor from the situations we get ourselves into, Thompson offers an inside look at the wedding business, drawing on her own experiences as a wedding planner. She is the author of the hugely popular *Weddings by Bella* series and the *Backstage Pass* series, as well as *PICTURE PERFECT* and *THE ICING ON THE CAKE*. She lives in Texas.

Critical Praise

"I fell in love with the Rossi clan, who feel as passionately about their pizza as Texans do about chili. Add a hunky cowboy with a slow Southern drawl, and you've got a recipe for one terrific story."

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