



The Wedding Audition

Catherine Mann , Joanne Rock

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The tabloids call her the Hit and Run Bride after reality show star Annamae Jessup walked out on Atlanta's favorite baseball player on cable television. Eager to escape her notoriety, Annamae takes a road trip to find the grandmother she's never met and winds up discovering a whole lot more than a band of back woods relatives. There's no escape from reality TV, even in Beulah, Alabama, population 3000.

The last thing Wynn Rafferty needs in his new life is a spoiled television princess who can't even know his real name. He's in temporary witness protection as an apple farmer after his undercover work put his life in danger. He needs to lay low until the heat dies down from his last case— even if he sucks at growing apples as badly as he sucks at relationships. But Annamae turns his new town into a media circus, unwittingly threatening the lives of him, her and most of Beulah. Wynn is an expert at keeping the world at arm's length, but when it comes to Annamae, the only way he can keep her safe is to keep her very, very close.

The Wedding Audition Details

Date : Published April 5th 2015 by Tule Publishing

ISBN :

Author : Catherine Mann , Joanne Rock

Format : Kindle Edition 153 pages

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

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From Reader Review The Wedding Audition for online ebook

Carol [Goodreads Addict] says

RATING 4.5 STARS

The Wedding Audition is book one in the Runaway Brides series by Catherine Mann and Joanne Rock. This book was the perfect mix of sweet romance and a little bit of suspense. I loved it.

Annamae Jessup has spent her life in front of the cameras, every move scripted for a reality television program involving her family. She never knew her biological father but has been raised by her step father. Her wedding is one day away. In twenty four hours she will marry the baseball star, the town's hero. It's just cold feet, right, normal wedding jitters. But all of a sudden she is questioning everything. Does she really love him? Is this what she really wants?

“She should be happy that such a charismatic man wanted to marry her, but she could only see a life of being steamrolled. Overlooked. Fading. Coming up short.”

So, in a very public way, Annamae bailed. She needed to get away from her family, from the cameras. So off she went to Beulah, Alabama. In order to move forward with her life, she needed to find out about her past. She had recently discovered that her paternal Grandmother was alive and well and living in Beulah. So what better place to start.

Heath Lambert has been living in Beulah for one year. He bought the apple orchard, not out of a love of farming, but to hide. He is really a cop. And he had been deep undercover trying to bust a crime family when it all went bad. It's only three weeks until the trial. He just has to stay hidden for a little bit longer so he can put the bad guys behind bars with his testimony. So, the last thing he needs is for a reality tv star to show up on his door step wanting to rent the carriage house. She is sure to draw unwanted attention. But it didn't seem like she was going to go away. So, Heath decides to accommodate her. At least from his farm he can control things, keep her hidden and quiet. Not to mention the fact that she is beautiful. And it's been a year since he has allowed himself any company of the female persuasion.

But, keeping Annamae quiet is easier said than done. Heath finds himself drawn into her family drama. But he is willing to risk it because the chemistry between them is crazy strong and he simply can't walk away from her.

“What do I do now?”

“Oh sweetheart, that's the easiest question of all. You do what any girl does after a bad breakup. You find a smoking hot man and have a fling.”

Annamae just walked away from a wedding she didn't want. So the last thing she needs is to get involved with the hunky farmer. But the chemistry is hard to resist. She finds that underneath all that tough exterior is a fun, charming, sweet man. And she wants him.

“Her body answered his like they'd been communicating this way for years instead of moments. No awkwardness. No worry if she was doing something right. The kiss didn't ask questions. It answered

them.”

I loved this book. I've read several by Joanne Rock but this is my first by Catherine Mann. The characters were so endearing. And once these two gave in to their attraction, I loved their banter, their pillow talk. I felt all the tummy flutters I so love when reading a romantic scene. There is plenty of humor as well as you meet Annamae's Grandmother and get a taste of the rest of her family. Poor Heath definitely didn't realize what he was in store for. Will Heath survive not only the bad guys who want him dead before the trial starts, but Annamae as well? I hope you'll pick this book up and find out.

Ara Prado says

ARC given by author & Tasty Book Tours

ARA'S NOTE:

Initially I thought Annamae was a typical primadona reality TV star whose biggest problem is what lip gloss she's going to wear. I was wrong. Hey don't blame me! The blurb sort of gives off that vibe. Anyway, here's my judgement of *The Wedding Audition*.

SYNOPSIS:

The tabloids call her the Hit and Run Bride after reality show star Annamae Jessup walked out on Atlanta's favorite baseball player on cable television. Eager to escape her notoriety, Annamae takes a road trip to find the grandmother she's never met and winds up discovering a whole lot more than a band of back woods relatives. There's no escape from reality TV, even in Beulah, Alabama, population 3000.

The last thing Wynn Rafferty needs in his new life is a spoiled television princess who can't even know his real name. He's in temporary witness protection as an apple farmer after his undercover work put his life in danger. He needs to lay low until the heat dies down from his last case even if he sucks at growing apples as badly as he sucks at relationships.

But Annamae turns his new town into a media circus, unwittingly threatening the lives of him, her and most of Beulah. Wynn is an expert at keeping the world at arms length, but when it comes to Annamae, the only way he can keep her safe is to keep her very, very close.

CHARACTER BACKGROUND:

Annamae Jessup is a confused woman who wishes to find herself without cameras following her wherever she goes. She's known as the good girl in a 5-year running reality show, and she feels lost and suffocated. So she says enough and runs off.

Wynn Rafferty just wants to have the case he's an important witness for to be over. He has surrounded himself with solitude, apples, and cats. He knows he must stay on the down low, but his attraction for Annamae causes him to throw caution in the air.

REVIEW:

This is a light story even though a drug cartel's involved. Seeing a goody-two-shoes snap always make me smile, so seeing Annamae break made me admire her more. Though her methods had me cringing, the important thing is she got things done, right? Okay maybe she could've handled it a bit better, but the damage is already done. And what an amusing damage that was. The romantic involvement between the

main characters was fast, but I already expected it when I finished the prequel. Besides, even if romance is fast, the characters' growth were not sacrificed.

SUMMARY:

I give this book 4 stars, because it was light in every way: humor, intensity, heat, etc. So why didn't I rate it 5 stars? Because the novel was so light, I found that there wasn't anything special about it. I wasn't laughing, crying, giggling, or biting my lips. I was just...reading. With that being said, It's a good afternoon read. Have a tall glass of iced tea on the side, and you're all set.

Claire - The Coffeeholic Bookworm says

She's a reality TV star, he's under Witness Protection program. Her face is plastered in front of the TV, he tries hard to hide himself from everyone else. She just dumped her fiancé through a live radio show, he wanted his neighbours to stay away from him. She uses her stepfather's name in showbizness, he uses an alias in hiding.

She's Annamae Jessup aka Annamae Smith. He's Wynn Rafferty aka Heath Lambert.

Two strangers, both yearn for privacy, hounded by paparazzi and soon bound by their love of animals. A perfect setting, but a dangerous combination. For one is bound to get ridiculed and get doomed over her choices while the other one is destined to die if his whereabouts were publicized.

The Wedding Audition is a fast fun and light read. Imagine Annamae as one of the Kardashians (whoever is the shyest one) but picture her as the sister who wanted out of the reality show. We learn that reality TV doesn't live up to its name, because all we see are pretenses and masks and glamour. Annamae doesn't really want to be part of all this hullaballo, and when she finally gets the chance to set things straight, she gets my attention and respect. She escapes the cameras, she adopts a dog (she names it Bagel and is so cute) and she doesn't waste time talking to people she needs the most.

On the other hand, Wynn Rafferty is a recluse, but a reasonable one. His life is at risk after witnessing the death of a boy while he was undercover. He strives to stay away from public, but everything disintegrates when he meets Annamae. His decision to lie low is threatened. And both their lives are going to be endangered.

This was quite short but the story has full impact. No need for elaborate steamy scenes, no need for extreme high-octane action scenes. Just light, romantic, engaging and sparkly kind of wedding story sure to warm your heart and get you sappy and giggly.

Alima Livzletlivz says

Talk about an interesting and different story! Co-written by Catherine Mann and Joanne Rock, "The Wedding Audition" (Runaway Bride Series 2), is easy on the mind, charming to read and warm to the heart.

Runaway reality star and soon-to-be-ex-bride Annamae Jessup leaves behind a cable network show and takes a road trip to visit her roots. Her trip lands her in the apple orchards of Wynn Rafferty, a cop in a witness protection program. Annamae brings the gossip and tabloids in her wake, and Wynn tries to save her and

himself from the threat of a Mafia lord.

With felines and canines for company, Annamae discovers more than she bargained for, and in the process rediscovers herself and what she really wants to make of her life. Attraction and desire spark lust and love, and Wynn and Annamae succumb to the fire of passion.

Witty dialogues and a sassy Grandma make this story even more fun to read. I have always loved Catherine Mann, and now Joanne Rock is a first time read, and this combo created a pretty magnetic story for the readers. Annamae is just hilarious and a bundle of surprises and Wynn is the ever magnetic and sweet guy who falls head over heels his raw harvest skills for the reality star.

Enjoyable and romantic, The Wedding Auction definitely spreads smiles.

Received an ARC from Tule Publishing via NetGalley for an honest review

Sultry Steamy Reading says

I received a copy of this book from Tasty Book Tours in exchange for an honest review and as part of the book's blog tour promotions.

When I was introduced to the heroine in the previous novella, I was intrigued by her. Reading this book, I liked her even more. I have to say, I really thought that Annamae and her golden boy athlete were going to end up with each other. I kind of liked them both. However, when I met the hero, I was a fan of him right away.

I liked this book better than the novella because it gave me a bigger story than just two people falling in love and figuring out their differences. In *The Wedding Audition*, we have a heroine who's trying to know her real self by distancing her life from the things that she was used to. We also have a hero whose life was on pause because of the dangers of his job. Both of them were trying to stay out of the spotlight. Both of them were trying out life in peace. Fate, however, had different plans.

I also liked the small town setting. I mean, I love books with stories that occur in glamorous New York, star-studded LA, and even the most popular European cities. However, stories set in a small town always have that warm, homey feeling to them. They are always the easiest and the most fun to read.

Needless to say, I truly enjoyed this book and I hope that more books come from the *Runaway Brides* series because the series is proving to be an enjoyable mix of adorable characters and heartwarming stories. Kudos to the authors of coming up with the idea of this book as well as the novella that came before this.

Lola says

I receive a copy in exchange for an honest review

This was such a fun and enjoyable book. The tone was light, while still dealing with some serious and heavier issues as well, but overall this book was just a lot of fun. Annamae accidentally breaks-up with her fiancé on real life television and radio and then decides she has had enough and takes off to spend some time

in a small town. She ends up meeting her grandmother, who had never met before. And while looking for a house she meets Wynn, who is in witness protection as an apple farmer and a women on the run of reality tv is the last thing he needs in his life. The pace was done well and I really enjoyed this book. They land in these fun situations and every time you think they can have some peace and quiet another things happens to disrupt that all.

I liked both character immediately, Annamae is such a nice girl, but she also figures out she needs some time for herself to find out who she is. And I liked that she did what needed to be done and figure out who she was. And I think the break with reality tv did her good. Then there's is Wynn who is in witness protection as his undercover work landed him in some trouble and he needs to stay hidden till the trial. That plan sort of goes down the drain as Annamae arrives, but he still tries his best. He was a great guy and protected those he cared about. There is a small suspense aspect there, but it's a minor aspect. The side characters were also fun, even though we don't get to know them that well. The focus was more on the two main characters. I did like Annamae her grandmother, she was a great character and a fun addition to the story. I also liked how she helped Annamae figure some things out.

The romance was well done and I was routing for these two characters, although they did feel in love a bit quickly. It did feel realistic and I liked seeing them grow closed. The ending was great and I already can't wait for the next book in this series. Another thing I loved about this book is the small town setting and the apple orchard with the multiple cats running around. It was just a picturesque setting and I really enjoyed it.

To conclude: This was a fun and enjoyable book with a light feel to it. Annamae accidentally breaks up with her fiancé on reality tv and decides to take a road trip and find her grandma. She ends up finding a nice apple orchard to stay and falls in love with Wynn. Their romance was sweet and adorable with a few hot scenes as well. And I loved the small town setting with the apple orchard. I am looking forward to the rest of the books in this series!

Danielle Gypsy Soul says

[Really the cop who has all kinds of weapons ends up fighting hand to hand with the bad guy and then the reality show actress shows up just in time to hit him over the head and knock him out to save the hero (hide spoiler)]

Debbie Brown says

This is cute and actually much better than I was expecting. Unenthusiastic reality TV show participant Annamae Jessup realizes on the day before her overly-publicized wedding that she's not in love with the high-profile baseball star she's engaged to. She phones a call-in radio show that offers romantic advice, giving a phony name and trying to disguise her voice. Unfortunately, her identity is immediately recognized, setting off a media frenzy before she even has a chance to break the news to her fiance that she's breaking their engagement.

Annamae, who has always followed the path of least resistance in her publicity-seeking Kardashian-type family, does the completely unexpected and makes a break for it. She ducks out of the public eye for the first time she can remember. Along the way, she picks up a sidekick: a scruffy little dog she names Bagel.

The two make their way to a tiny town in Alabama where Annamae's paternal grandmother lives. She has

never met this relative, but she's hoping this one relation who doesn't live out her life on-camera can give her some insight about her absent biological father.

By chance, Annamae learns that a local farmer who owns a large apple orchard has a carriage house apartment that might be available to rent. This seems like a perfect place for her to keep a low profile for a while and decide what she's going to do next.

Naturally, he turns out to be a good looking hunk of a man, and there's an instant electric current between the two of them - more sexual attraction than she ever felt with her former fiance. But hunky farmer is gruff and unhelpful despite the whole electric current thing between them. He assumes Annamae is flaky, that she enjoys living in the limelight, and he wants no part of that lifestyle.

Okay, so every reader can tell already where THIS is going!

But wait... The interesting twist is that the farmer, Heath Lambert, is actually a cop named Wynn Rafferty marked for death by the Mafia because he's going to be testifying against the mob boss in a murder trial, which is now only a month away. He's got his property well protected with fences, gates, and surveillance and alarm equipment. The LAST thing this guy needs right now is any publicity. Yet all his protective instincts get charged up by Annamae, between her obvious need for help and the aforementioned electric current attracting him to her.

While obvious elements here smack of typical chick-lit romance, the execution is actually pretty unpredictable. Annamae's grandmother, Hazel Mae Smith, is a hoot. The family showdown when her mother Delilah and stepfather Spencer show up is entertaining, though the resolution there is a little anti-climactic. The cop-in-hiding storyline adds an interesting dynamic to the romance.

Despite all the security precautions and the real threat from the mob, the tone remains light throughout. It's not as fluffy as a Stephanie Plumb book, but it's pretty close. It's a short, fun read.

Books and Spoons says

Refreshingly originally set up in this story.

The Jessup reality television series family is so dramatic, they are comically funny and very entertaining. Their daughter AnnaMae has, for the first time in her life, found her backbone, and stands up for what she wants, needs, out of her life, even though maybe going for it in a wrong way.

On her way to find out more about her real father, and escape from the disaster her life has turned out to be, she runs into Wynn, and sparks fly. The attraction is immediate, even though AnnaMae just left her fiance. Wynn is hiding as well, from the crime cartel. Together at the apple farm, they learn to trust each other, and trust the attraction between them. A hope for the possible future together starts to rise, until AnnaMae's family comes for a visit, and the chaos sets off.

The story has a fun, humorist tone, even though the danger from the cartel, or the paparazzi, finding them, is constantly present. Wynn and AnnaMae are fun together, the passion is hot, the connection is real, and they truly seem to enjoy each others company. Enjoyable, lively story

~ Three Spoons with a teaspoon on the side

Jessica says

Received through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Ugh! Reality shows! Annamae is a celebrity on a reality show & after she dumps her fiancée over the radio, she flees to her grandmother's town to find out more about her past and figure out who she is. I'm so glad that Annamae got out of the scene & found Wynn! Their romance seemed a little forced at the beginning but it grew on me, so by the end it just felt right!

Gwen says

I really enjoyed this story and even though it says it is written by two authors, the transition are seamless and you can really sit down and enjoy the ride.

Annamae and her family star in a reality show and she gets nervous right before her wedding and calls it off when she realizes this is not what she wants to do. She wants to find her grandmother and find out what happened to her real father.

Wynn is under protection due to an upcoming trial that he is a witness for. He's really a cop but Annamae just sees him as a grumpy farmer.

Sweet, enjoyable and keeps you entertained and involved in the story the whole time. My favorite is the dog that Annamae finds and brings along with her.

Ye'Vell Hopkins says

Nice, easy read.

I was looking for some light reading and this book was the answer. A cute, quick romance with a little drama thrown in.

Wendy's Thoughts says

3.5 Reality TV Meets Realness * * * 1/2

Take an unwilling but active participant of a local Kardashian type family reality show out of Georgia. Annamae Jessup is about to be married to the prize baseball player who everyone adores. She is in a bit of a panic... she is not feeling that this is what should be happening and makes the error of calling into a talk show out of desperation asking what she should do... Only problem is when she asks, her distinctive voice gives her away... causing her to realize she was not marrying this man.

She was not going to continue to be the "get along daughter" anymore and to cash out and leave to find what she needed...

Annamae goes to a tiny town in Alabama to track down her paternal Granny. For years her mother lied and said this woman was dead. Granny is the key to what is bothering our gal... she will be able to tell Annamae all about her wayward father... for being raised by her stepfather and mother has not been the most encouraging.

Wynn Rafferty is hiding too... but his hiding has to do with making sure he is alive to testify against a crime

family he brought down while undercover. He has been below the radar on an apple grove waiting for all of the stages of legal maneuvers to finish and get the trial started. He has created a new identity, a fortress on his land and low key presence in the community...

Well, maybe not low key enough because when Annamae drives up a the gas station looking for a place to stay disguised with big sunglasses and red bandanna, one of the fellas tell her of the carriage house for rent on Wynn's land. This is exactly what she needs...and she is determined to make it her hideaway.

This was the first installment of the Runaway Bride series. It had a sweet flair and the two characters, both determined to keep a low profile, were caught up in anything but. Our gal was hounded by her family and paparazzi and then she became focused on not causing her landlord any trouble.

There was intrigue, some cloak and dagger and lots of sexy times between them. The Granny was a hoot; the confrontation between families fun and in the end we had the coming together of this couple.

You could see how all of it came about and made me think of all the wannabees who dream of being famous....

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Lola says

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Dee says

kind of reminded me of runaway bride with julia roberts - but without richard gere - wish it had been slightly longer
