



My Big Fat Christmas Wedding

Samantha Tonge

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Things don't always run smoothly in the game of love...

Former hot shot city girl Pippa Pattinson loves her new life of rustic simplicity, running a quaint teashop on a sleepy Greek island with her hot fiancé, Niko. But it's been a quick change to slow living – and you can't blame a girl for wondering, 'how did I get here?'

As her Christmas wedding approaches, a trip back to snowy England for her ex's engagement party makes her wonder if those are wedding bells she's hearing in her mind, or warning bells. She longs for the excitement of her old London life – the glamour, the regular pedicures. Can she really give that all up to be...a fishwife?

There's nothing for it but to throw herself into bringing a little Christmas magic to the struggling village in the form of a Christmas fair. Somewhere in amidst the sparkly bauble cakes and stollen scones, she's hoping she'll come to the right decision about where she belongs...fingers crossed in time for the wedding...

My Big Fat Christmas Wedding Details

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From Reader Review My Big Fat Christmas Wedding for online ebook

Kim says

I absolutely loved Game of Scones in the summer and was really looking forward to returning to Taxos and falling in love with the villagers all over again. The new one combines several of my favourite romantic elements- Christmas and weddings. Who could fail to fall under it's spell?

We are treated to some lovely Greek Christmas traditions alongside some British traditions at the Christmas fair that Pippa organises.

I love Samantha's writing style and the way her characters come to life on the page and leave you feeling you know them very well.

When her ex fiancé shows up again, Pippa has sudden doubts that she's done the right thing giving up the bright lights of the city for a more sedate village life in Greece. Will things settle in time?

The cover would really draw you to this book- promising a great read.

Another great book by Samantha and Carina UK. With many thank to Net Galley for the chance to read this book in exchange for an honest review.

mrsljibbs says

I had to read this after finishing the first one - Game of Scones! I just had to find out what happened next and I wasn't disappointed. The sequel tied all the loose ends off nicely and finished the story off perfectly. Although I would love to see a third novel that carries the story a little bit further - maybe a baby??!!! All the original characters are there, plus a couple more and the whole will they won't they, keeps you wanting to read more!

This was not as good as the first book, but still a good escapism read.

Simona says

Book provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review

My Big Fat Christmas Wedding brings us back to Pippa and Niko, who we know already from Game of Scones. It can be read as a standalone, but I would recommend reading Game of Scones, because it's the start off he story and it makes you understand certain things better.

So, we are in Taxos with Pippa and Niko. The are enjoying their life there and they are about to get married. A trip to England changes everything. They are invited to her ex's engagement party in London. Pippa is back in London, so close to her old life, she enjoys being around old work colleagues and in this festive London atmosphere. At the party Niko feels left alone and in the wrong place. After a heated argument, Niko rushes back to Greece!

After spending time with Henrik and Olivia Pippa goes home with their booked flight and finds everything to be in chaos. It's a storm, there are refugees and Niko cannot be found. When he is found and in hospital, he still wants to cancel the wedding. The question now was, if the wedding was still on. For Pippa that time was a journey if figuring out what she really wants in life and where she will be happy.

I loved how passionate and excited Pippa was with her new projects. She put all her heart in them and it also opened her eyes to what she really needs in life.

The atmosphere in Taxos around Christmas is great and Niko's family is just adorable. There were many wonderful moments in this book and I think it transports a great message.

Kathryn Laceby says

Originally reviewed at Novel Escapes

There is something very natural about Samantha Tonge's writing. Her stories flow easily and there are perfect relationships and heart-warming characters to wrap yourself up in which helps you immerse yourself immediately in the story.

My Big Fat Christmas Wedding has Pippa and Nico getting married during the Christmas season in a small town in Greece. The novel is contemporary and sets us in the country during economic uncertainty. The plot also includes modern events which will no doubt leave you thinking about your own position in life. I liked that the author didn't avoid these topics altogether but left them placed just so for you to contemplate- it was well done.

Julie has pre-wedding nerves, and not just the typical ones that have her questioning if she's ready to commit to one man for the rest of her life, her nerves revolve mostly around if she's ready to commit to the mental scope available to her from the small village life. I could understand that she was worried that the idyllic setting would wear off and become less than she needed intellectually. Nico, of course, is charming and the picture of what one would expect. I'm glad he was also tough enough to make sure she knew his position and didn't back down- we didn't need a wishy-washy hero! But most charming to me was the incorporation of the villagers lives and how everyone was involved (in a good way) in each other's lives. The simplicity in their helping of each other was encouraging on a larger scale.

Though the story was simple, the writing clearly expressed the characters turmoil and the hope for the village's future.

Thank you to the author for our review copy. All opinions are our own.

Emma Crowley says

If like me you fell in love with the character of Pippa Pattinson in Samantha Tonge's brilliant Game of Scones earlier this year then you will be delighted to discover one of your favourite characters is back just in time for the Christmas season. My Big Fat Christmas Wedding is a follow up to the adventures of Pippa and new fiancée Nico living in the tiny Greek village of Taxos. Even though this is the second in the series it is stressed that it can be read as a standalone but truthfully to get the full value, experience and enjoyment from these wonderful, friendly, realistic characters I would suggest you read Game of Scones first. Sequels or books that continue on a story can be hard to write. Sometimes the writer has run out of steam, yes they may have needed a second book to finish part of the story if there was no room left in the first. But then the issue is resolved too early and the reader is left to read pages of endless filling in just to complete the book. Not so

here, Samantha Tonge has created another witty story with romance, friendships and community spirit right at its heart and it was a thoroughly enjoyable read. It's obvious the author knew right from when she created these characters there was plenty in their story waiting to be told. Book two is just as good as book one despite some predictability but I pushed that aside and enjoyed the story of Pippa, Nico and the villagers as Christmas is just on the horizon.

What I thought was great about this story was that it was set just four months after we last left Pippa. It really felt like we just had a little holiday from the characters and now the reader was easily able to pick where we had left off. This was a refreshing change as often sequels carry on two or three years later. Having such a close time frame meant the characters and storylines were fresh in my mind. Pippa is now happily running the quaint Taxos teashop of her dreams bringing a small piece of England and its traditions to a tiny Greek village. The man of her dreams since childhood is now her soon to be husband and her life seems to be going down the right path for once. Her glamorous, fast paced life as a banker in London using her mathematical abilities is left firmly in the past. Or is it?

With her wedding just around the corner and a Christmas fair to plan Pippa couldn't be busier but events on the island and a former flame may be just about to upset the apple cart and make Pippa question everything she thought was solid and secure. Pippa's former fiancée Henrik (former makes Pippa sound like she has had numerous fiancées and that she drops them at the drop of a hat but that is not the case) arrives back on the island to check his business interests and to announce that he is now engaged to charity worker Olivia (he really wasn't that long in moving on from Pippa in my opinion). I still can't make Henrik out after two books, I am firmly split down the middle with him as I never really know the true meaning behind his intentions. One minute he seems genuine and nice and the next he is up to something to further his career or personal life. When Pippa and Nico are issued with an invitation to Henrik's engagement party back in England, Pippa jumps at the chance to return but Nico has his reservations. Are they justified? How can Taxos compete with London and secure a place in Pippa's heart?

As well as the Pippa, Nico, Henrik triangle we had another storyline running concurrently and I have to say well done Samantha Tonge, little did I know on first glance at the wonderfully colourful, festive cover you would bring to light such serious issues such as the economy crisis in Greece and how it is affecting the everyday lives of the islanders and also the plight of refugees escaping from Syria and other neighbouring countries. In fact I was surprised when I began to read this in the book but it really did work and was woven seamlessly throughout the story and it was apt how the issues fired up the character of Pippa and allowed her generous, inspiring spirit to come to the fore. Chick-lit books are lovely easy reads but don't often deal with topical relevant issues but this is what made this book what it was. It could have been to focused on the romance aspect and forget what was and is going on in Greece at the moment but Samantha was brave enough not to do this. Instead we had a fine balance between the two.

The fortunes of Taxos need to be turned around and Pippa and the villagers are the people to do it, everybody is struggling under the pressures and strains the economy finds itself in. Yes the summer season selling scones and the hoards of tourists that visit were excellent but it's the long winter months that the villagers need to think about. Samantha tells us how dogs now roam the streets as people can no longer afford to keep them. There is malnutrition in children and adults and people are being forced from their homes unable to pay the rents due to unemployment. Every industry is struggling including the Manos family who run the local butchers as people can no longer afford meat everyday of the week. The Manos family's story was expertly told and highlighted the issues mentioned above which we hear of on the news everyday but just think oh poor them sure there is nothing we can do they are in another country. Pippa can't let the village and people she calls family go up in ruins so she decides to organise a Christmas Fair in the hopes of beginning to turn the outlook of the village around. I loved Pippa for this, she a wedding to plan but put everybody else first as she knew Nico and the villagers held a very special place in her heart.

It was nice to have a small section of the book set in London just before Christmas as we felt the atmosphere,

the cold, the snow and all the festive sights, smells and sounds. In this section I will readily admit Pippa really did annoy me. I'll go as far to say she angered me with her actions. Poor Nico was treated badly when all he had at the centre of his heart and mind was providing Pippa with the life she deserves and although his financial situation at the moment mightn't allow that you knew he would always do his best for her. Events at the party put doubts in Pippa's head and to me she just came across as selfish. For god's sake she had her dream man, the dream job on a fabulous island and here she was questioning everything. She was hearing warning bells rather than wedding bells and I didn't like it one bit. Why long for her old life when she wasn't happy with it in the first place or even truly happy with Henrik? Is she destined to be the girl who had it all - a life a lot of people can only fantasise about only to give it all up on a whim? Foolishly in my opinion. Pippa was torn but I know I wouldn't be and I think that is what made me angry with her. I for one had to keep reading to find out? From then on the book really picked up pace and I was dying to find out the outcome for both the villagers and Nico and Pippa.

The road to the big fat Christmas Wedding may not have the smoothest of paths but all the ups and downs are what make this book. It was like reuniting with old friends and catching up on all that I had missed. Samantha has created a superb cast of characters that compliment Pippa and Nico and their own little stories add that special something to the book. I'll admit Pippa's wobble in London made me turn against her but when she stops, takes stock and re-evaluates I could see her thinking and reasoning and I was just hoping she would do the right thing and that the villagers future would be secured too. We saw two sides to Pippa but I love her ultimate qualities of being a good friend, being caring, kind and reliable and above all else loyal.

I suppose I shouldn't forget to mention that Samantha has once again done a stellar job with creating all the scone flavours and combinations for Christmas. The descriptions were salivating and mouth watering and reminded me what was so enjoyable about the first book. This book wasn't totally overloaded with Christmas glitz and glamour, we got just the right amount to go alongside the serious aspects of the story and it did get me in the festive mood.

The only issue I have is that when reading this on the Kindle the book ended at 84%, yes I understand the story was over but when you think there is 16% to go and then it ends it is a bit annoying. Mentally I was prepared for more so just be warned that is when it does end and then we have three teaser chapters from a previous release Mistletoe Mansion. Samantha mentioned on the net this is the Game of Scones series so maybe there is more to come from Pippa and co? I feel there is definitely one more book there that would continue and wrap up this story nicely. In the meantime My Big Fat Christmas wedding should have pride of place on your Christmas wish-list this year.

Renee says

This is the second book in the Game of Scones series. I haven't read the first book (yet....) and I can confirm that this one can be read as a stand alone.

Set between the gorgeous but isolated Greek Islands and the metropolis of London, this is a tale of romance and self discovery. This novel had the light fun feeling of chick lit as well as being grounded in reality. As well as the drama of organising a big wedding in a short amount of time, while trying to keep everyone happy, this novel also tactfully dealt with deeper issues such as the economic climate and refugee crisis. I found the characters likable and enjoyed the writing style. I plan to read more of Samantha's work.

I received this book free from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Fiona Wilson says

I enjoyed the first book about these characters, Game of Scones, so couldn't wait to see what the author would bring us this time.

Pippa and Niko are living the quiet life. They are in love, living on the gorgeous island of Kos, and everything seems rosy. But unfortunately things don't remain as rosy as they would like.

Pippa is a city girl at heart, but her heart is now with Niko. An unexpected trip back to London has her head, and heart, totally messed up as circumstances beyond her control lead to disagreements galore.

Niko is an islander at heart, and a short tempered islander at that! When he sees Pippa seemingly 'at home' in London he does what he knows best, and all hell breaks loose.

Following the London trip things take a twist. Can this couple work things out in time for their own wedding?

A lot of readers want a nice, romantic story to read without having to think too much. The author has, very rightly, decided to include current news issues within her story. Not only does she incorporate the Greek economy, she also brings the current refugee crisis into the story as well. It is a risk which works, as by having these in the story she brings it right up to date.

Another brilliant story from the author.

Many thanks to Netgalley and Carina for a review copy in exchange for an honest review.

Julie says

My thanks to Samantha Tonge and Netgalley for allowing me a free copy in exchange for an honest review. Having read all of Samantha's books so far, I'm particularly taken with the ones set in Greece (Game of Scones) and this little gem. The author somehow manages to engage the reader's attention, spin a marvellous tale against a Greek backdrop whilst elevating the book beyond simple chicklit. In this story it's true there is romance as Pippa struggles to decide if staying in Greece is really what she wants. There's the fairytale scenario of a Christmas wedding to plan for - which may or may not go ahead yet the author also deals with current affairs and the refugee crisis which has hit the island of Kos. She also adds in a few Greek customs that I'd forgotten about and which took me back to when i lived in Greece. If you're looking for a lovely romantic Christmas story with a difference then I think this is it!

Zee Monodee says

Probably the Samantha Tonge story I most loved! Going into this, I didn't really know it was the sequel to Game of Scones (which I absolutely dished on, btw) and so it was a really nice surprise, like your bestie popping in unannounced when you thought you wouldn't ever see her again. I literally devoured this book!

Where do I start with how good it was? Okay, not the scones coz there was a bigger foodie vibe in GoS, though they're still present. The focus was on the life around Pippa and in and around Taxos (brilliant streak

to weave in the current economic climate and the refugee situation! That latter one was a total eye-opener, especially for someone who's not in Europe and so doesn't know first-hand how/what the situation is like over there). Characters were amazing, as usual - which does still mean you want to sometimes smack them upside the head, shake them like rag dolls because of the decisions they make (Niko, I'm pointing at you here!), and sometimes just bash them with a ten-foot pole (ahem, cough...Henrik). You also want to dole out a lot of hugs, too; it is, after all, Christmas season so hugs are a requirement (Olivia and Pippa and even Sophia, Niko's mum).

It's the perfect Christmas read because it's not about Christmas per se but the spirit and energy and love of that period, which to me is what this time of the year is all about.

Note to Samantha - Olivia, Henrik, and even Cleo, need their own stories. ASAP, please!! *grin*

Rachel Gilbey says

Where on earth do I start? With the beautiful cover that I just don't tire of looking at? With my long awaited excitement to return to Taxos? With the knowledge that its a book that features Greece at Christmas? My curiosity as to what wonderful sounding flavours of scones would show up this time? I'm not sure, I can't pick, but I suspect you may be able to tell I was excited at this books announcement and I was 100% correct to be.

As someone that loved Game of Scones earlier this year, and fell in love with the town of Taxos, as well as with Niko, I was delighted to see the sequel announced. For those of you worried, this will work as a standalone, but they are such pleasurable and reasonably easy reads, I can't see why you wouldn't want to start at the beginning!

One of the many things I loved about this book, was the incredibly chatty style of writing, it really felt like Pippa was talking directly to you, even apologising to you, as times if she felt she was going on about things, which is a nice touch, and makes her feel very real, like someone you are sitting across a table from.

Meeting up with the entirety of Niko's family again, was brilliant, especially Grandma, and catching up with your favourite villagers is always good.

Then there is Henrik, Pippa's ex fiancée, who is back on Kos, for business, but also to invite Pippa and Niko to his engagement party, just a week before Pippa is due to get married herself. It was this invite that gets Pippa wondering if she made the right decision uprooting her life to Greece, especially with the financial difficulties, or whether she would be happier earning a decent wage, amongst the glitz and glamour of London.

So you can tell that it won't all be smooth sailing for Pippa and Niko, and despite me complete belief that we would be given the Christmassy happy ever after, there was a lot of drama during the book, that did have me wondering if my belief would be correct or not.

I mentioned that I had been curious about possible scone flavours and some of the ones that stood out to me were Stuffing flavour, Stollen flavour and scones decorated to look like baubles, which I can only imagine must be very pretty.

Pippa's idea to create a Christmas fair in Taxos, with some English ideas as well as Greek ones, sounded wonderful, and I would have happily visited had I been there. Some great Christmas descriptions, and always

good to see a town bound together on a project.

My Big Fat Christmas Wedding combines lots of my favourite elements into one fabulous story - scones, Taxos, humour, drama, Christmas and weddings. And the mix is very enjoyable book, that is easy to read and will brighten you up at any time.

Thanks so much to Carina and Netgalley for this review copy. This was my honest opinion.

Agi says

"My Big Fat Christmas Wedding" is Samantha's fifth book, if I'm not mistaken, and I must say that I am watching with pleasure how Ms Tonge is finding her own place, voice and style in the chick - lit world. Her writing style and sense of humour make her outstanding and already so quickly recognizable, and when starting to read her novel I am sure I am for some crazy situations, awkward moments, laughing out loud moments and tender situations as well. This novel is a continuation of "Game of Scones", that was published only in April this year, and follows the adventures of Pippa and Nico - it is stressed that this book can be read as a stand - alone novel - and yes, it can - but I think that reading "Game of scones" first would be a great idea.

Samantha often touches very current global problems in her books, and this time, as it is set in Greece, on Kos Island, there are mentions about refugees. But, to be totally honest, and yes, I know it was needed for the plot, I'm not sure if it was, at present tempers, the best move - of course it depends on the reader's views on refugees. It's just, it's all so sad and tragic, and in the books I'm reading I'm not necessary looking for political issues being mentioned. So there, that was me, telling. (UPDATE. Oh dear. After I finished writing this review I've spotted a discussion going on Sam's FB profile, where she was so thankful for a review praising her writing about the refugees, and mostly people do applaud her on this decision. Yes, I do realise that some may say that in this current situation one can't write a book based on Kos without a reference to the refugees, but I'd say, yes you can - I have my daily dose of those dramatic situations on the TV and magazines, and when I'm reading a women's fiction I'm looking for relaxation. But of course kudos and hats off to Samantha for still putting this in her story. And I don't want to start a whole new debate - I respect other people's opinions and I hope that some will respect mine.) But opinions aside, this part of the book sat perfectly and fit the story.

But oh my, this book is so much more than the actual political situation!

It was really great to be back on this beautiful island, full of community spirit - even if the moods were a little at rock bottom because of the economical situation. But ha! Why do the villagers have Pippa there? Exactly! To help! I love Pippa and her enthusiasm, it is never - ending, and I love her spirits, she's not the one to be quickly demotivated. But. This time, the sex - god Niko has played on my nerves and with my patience a little. I mean, Samantha has brilliantly captured his personality, this of a proud, independent young Greek, but there were moments I so badly wanted to shake him and tell him what he's going to lose if he's going to behave this way. I was absolutely team - Pippa this time, and I was desperate with Niko, who was seeing things that didn't take place. Arrgh, Niko... Maybe it is because I myself moved thousands kilometres from home, following my heart, and I could put myself into Pippa`s shoes, I could easily imagine her quandaries, concern, anxieties and the things she could have been missing - it is not as easy as it sounds, to move far away from your home and things that you've already been taking for granted that are suddenly not available any more. On the other hand, Pippa had a wonderful boyfriend who would gladly make all her wishes come true even before she thought about them, so seeing him so aside, not knowing any people at

Henrik's engagement party was really sad. They both needed some re - think, I'd say.

This chatty, lovely, warm, easy writing style becomes Samantha's hallmark. It really feels as if Pippa was sitting next to you and was telling you the story herself, and I have immediately felt at home with the characters and the story progressing. Yes, this book was a little slow starter but nevertheless, the pace was only right and Ms Tonge really know when she should add a twist or two to pump up the tempo. Moreover, she writes in a way that make you feel all kind of emotions while reading, from sadness to happiness, from uncertainty to relief, and this all with this characteristic, dry humour.

But if you think that the things are going to be oh so smooth for Pippa and Niko, than oh no! There is a lot happening in this book, a lot of will they/won't they, with one of them changing their minds, and you truly can't be sure how this story is going to end. Oh yes, you know how you WANT it to end, but Ms Tonge's plotting and twisting doesn't make it so obvious. Also, with every book, Samantha's character are better and better, they just grow on you, they are warm, friendly, and truly realistic, and to be honest, being again in Pippa's company was a great joy - the same as being in the taverna, with other characters, and even seeing Henrik brought a smile to my face (even though he is like enigma to me, this Henrik - I couldn't really follow him this time, he has moved on from Pippa into Olivia very quickly, even though his intentions were not so clear, and altogether, this time I really couldn't truly get him.). Pippa has a heart made of gold, and even with her wedding coming soon (or not???) she finds time to care about not only villagers and their businesses, but also about strand dogs, and I think this is why I love her so much. She is unselfish, lovely person and she always put other people before herself.

Even though I was more fond of the English version of Christmas, with all the wonderful descriptions of London, the Greek Christmas had a lot of charm as well. It was different to this what I know and it's always great to learn about new things or traditions. And because of the "Cocksucking Cowboy", if any of the brides - to - be are planning their hen - dos in Greece, could you please take me with you? And of course we can't forget the scones! I thought that Pippa has already championed herself in "The Game of Scones" but this time she really topped herself, and only reading about those flavours, smells combined with the Christmas spirit in the book made me hungry and I can't wait for Christmas to come!

I have a very strong feeling that Samantha Tonge is only starting to warm up with writing those witty, warm romances, full of brilliant characters, wonderful settings and hilarious situations and one - liners. And this is great - keep them coming, Samantha! "My Big Fat Christmas Wedding" is a truly lovely, witty read with some important issues added to it, and I have spent few really entertaining hours in the company of those lovely characters and twisty plot. It's a novel with a heart that for sure is going to put you in the festive mood already.

Copy received from publisher in exchange for a review.

Petra "Pippa" Q says

I had my eye on Samatha Tonge's fabulous books for a while, and I am quite shocked it took me that long to grab a copy of her book because I have been missing out on Samatha wonderful way of descriptive writing and seamlessly flowing storylines.

My Big Fat Christmas Wedding is a standalone sequel to Game of Scones. I haven't yet read Game of Scones, but I still felt right at home with all those delightful characters and quickly find my way through the story without being confused about " the who is who" game.

Pippa Pattison, the former city high flyer, is enjoying her new love in rustic simplicity, running a quaint teashop on a sleepy Greek island with her fiancé, Niko. But it has been a rather quick change to slow living, and you can't blame a girl for wondering, "how did I get here?"

Pippa is very excited about her Greek wedding, but a quick trip to snowy England for her ex's engagement party makes her wonder about a few important things. So what is it going to be for Pippa - a glamorous woman with a city lifestyle or a wife of a fisherman?

I can honestly relate to Pippa. She is a leading lady with a determined personality and high intellect who happened to find the love of her life in a charming yet sleepy Greek village. Although I am not in an exactly same position as Pippa, I understand how hard it must have been for her to give up her city lifestyle and relocate to a different country where she had to adapt to a different set of rules. I delighted in watching Pippa being smitten with not only Niko's family but with so many other residents of the small Taxos community. Although Pippa had a history within the island and had known Niko's family since her own family holidayed there every year when she was a young girl this time she was also determined to make it her permanent home.

There were few misunderstandings between Pippa and Niko throughout the story. I think the slight language barrier and their different upbringing and outlook on life made them both question their decisions. It was lovely to go on a journey with Pippa and Niko and see how they both managed to solve their issues despite life throwing them a curveball I, as a reader, could clearly see how much they adored and respected each other.

A whole array of other characters that were popping out of the pages and welcoming me with their open arms. I absolutely adored Sophia, Gorgios, and Grandma Sotiropoulos. Niko's family were such a down-to-earth, friendly and incredible people as well as Pandora and the rest of the thousands of cousins and uncles and aunties that lived on the island. There was such a strong sense of family values, beliefs, and belonging

In My Big Fat Christmas Wedding, Samatha cleverly managed to blend a serious aspect of the country's economic downturn and refugee crises and the tremendous life struggle for many Greek families with a swift flowing romantic plotline full of sympathetic and realistic characters.

A heartwarming and very enjoyable Christmas read.

Karen Mace says

I received a copy of this book via NetGalley in return for a fair and honest review.

So happy that we get to go back to Taxos and experience more of the wonderful village and its' inhabitants! And it isn't too long before you are soon swept up in the world of greek sunshine and scones, but this time with the added twist of Santa!

In this book we get to follow through the romance between Pippa and Nikos which was so captivating in Game of Scones - although this book can be read as a stand alone I do think it means more if you have seen the story evolve from book one!

Pippa and Nikos are now planning their Christmas wedding and despite the economic plight of Greece, which is mentioned more in this book along with other topical events, the whole of Taxos seem to be involved to help make it a wedding to remember. If only Pippa and Nikos felt that way! Things start to unravel a little for them when Pippa's ex, Henrik, returns to tell of his sudden engagement to Olivia and to

invite Pippa back home with Nikos to the engagement party. When she returns to London Pippa begins to feel homesick for the life she used to lead and wonders if she is making the right decision to leave her friends and the banking world behind her to carry on with her current job of running the teashop and baking scones. Add to the mix that Henrik still has feelings for her, Pippa begins to feel very confused and really doesn't know what to do

Fascinating to see the characters evolve and struggle with big decisions in their lives but the book still retains its' humour at times despite the more serious events that are touched upon and it makes you care more about the characters when life isn't a bed of roses and tough decisions need to be made. And it is always when times get really tough, as in real life, that you discover what is more important to you and hopefully you choose the right options

Highly recommended!!

Shaz Goodwin says

<http://www.jerasjamboree.co.uk/2015/1...>

On e-book publication day, JJ's blog readers had the opportunity to read the prologue of My Big Fat Christmas Wedding where Niko proposed to Pippa in such a romantic setting. It's not long though before there's conflict for Pippa. Invited to Henrik's engagement party in London sets off conflicting feelings for her and finances are a strain too - and we all know the impact that can have on relationships.

My Big Fat Christmas Wedding isn't all about romance. Topical, the economy and refugees are a part of the Greek villagers lives in Taxos and I found it easy to become engaged with the community (I loved the different Greek customs too). The desolation of one particular family pulled at my heartstrings and Pippa's creative thinking had me pumping the air and cheering. I thought Sam Tonge had the psychology of the villagers exactly right.

Conflict comes in London and also from Niko's ex. When a disaster happens it causes our two leads to have a turn around but is it in the right direction? Plenty of tense moments ...

Grandma from Niko's family is the character that stood out for me. Earth mother figure and wise, I'd love to have her in my life!

I enjoyed Pippa's realisations about who she is and what she needs as an individual so regardless of what might happen, she was firm in her decisions.

It was easy to visualise the settings and the storyline moves at a good pace. There's enough backstory that the plot makes sense so although this is a sequel, it can also be read as a standalone. The spirit of the community at the Christmas market is uplifting and the plight of the Greek economy and refugees drew me in. The romance? It's about finding where you belong and compromising as well as acceptance.

My Big Fat Christmas Wedding was a quick read for me and one I would recommend for romance readers.

I would like to thank the publishers for approval via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Darcie Boleyn says

I loved Game of Scones by Samantha Tonge so when I found out that there was a Christmas sequel, I was thrilled. The novel didn't disappoint! It was warm, funny and emotional and I just loved catching up with all of the characters from the first book. The story is focussed on Pippa and Niko's impending Christmas wedding and on the issues they face as they prepare to make this big commitment. It's well written and deep at times but just when I found myself on the verge of tears, Samantha Tonge would throw in a curveball to make me giggle. This story will make you laugh, make you cry and make you feel very festive indeed! A winner for Christmas reading 2015!
