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Table For Two: A Yummy Collection Of Restaurant-Themed Romances



Synopsis

Salt Water Taffie by Janice Thompson Taffie Carini enjoys working in her family's candy store on the Atlantic City boardwalk. But when her parents plan their retirement, Taffie's not sure she has the moxie to manage Carini's Confections alone. When repairman Ryan Antonelli makes a service call, he's drawn to more than just the candy. His marketing degree hasn't prepared him to fix a taffy-making machine, but Ryan will do anything to help Taffie, with the hopes of winning her heart. When a business mogul wants to buy Carini's property to build a new casino, Taffie's family's future is threatened. Can Ryan help Taffie save Carini's Confections? Will they find sweet love together in the process?

Coffee Scoop by Kathleen Y'Barbo Reporter Carrie Collins is on a vendetta against all religious con men, and with good reason. Ryan Baxter, a seminary graduate with a Harvard MBA, is head of a non-profit organization, using coffee grown on their Central American plantation, to improve the living conditions of the poor. He sees Carrie, a reporter at the Austin Times, as a means of getting publicity for their organization. She sees him as just one more crook hiding behind a religious facade and no better than the man who stole her mother's life savings. Carrie goes to Costa Rica, determined to find out the truth. Should she listen to her heart or her head?

The Sweetheart of Starlight by Lynette Sowell Tamarind Brown knows Texas barbecue... She also knows how to run a restaurant, even if The Pit is a bit shabby around the edges and needs renovation. Her place is a local favorite in Starlight, Texas. So why is she losing money? Rick Mantovani knows pasta. He has a string of successful Italian restaurants on the East Coast, but he wants to conquer barbecue. And the place to prove himself is the heart of Texas. The fact that Starlight is also the home of a beautiful, green-eyed barbecue champion doesn't hurt. As their friendship grows, Rick visits Tamarind's church to do a little business networking. He's never had time for God or religion, and when tragedy strikes Starlight, Rick finds himself at a crossroads of faith.

Bargains, Ballots, & the Bakery by Carol Moncado Brianna Masters inherited Millie's Bakery from her grandmother, but running it by herself has driven her half-crazy. She receives help, but finds herself organizing Mallard Lake Township's rummage sale and running a mayoral campaign. Grayson Goddard returned home after college to find his friend and mentor had died and no one told him. Her beautiful granddaughter kept Millie's promise of giving him a job. In a whirl of flying flour, he finds himself falling in love with his new boss, helping with the rummage sale and running for mayor against his high school nemesis. Together, they work to help the town's less fortunate through the rummage sale proceeds and end the stranglehold the mayor's family had on the office for nearly a hundred years. No matter the outcome of the election, can they find the recipe for love?

Love and a Side of Chips by Traci Tyne Hilton Never kiss your boss. That's a lesson

Kylie Rossi isn't going to forget, not after losing her job. Now she's back home with her parents, mopping floors at a taco shop, and trying to figure out exactly where everything went wrong. Was Chris Stevens just not that into her? Well, that seems plenty obvious. His complete lack of interest when he delivered the news didn't leave much room for misinterpretation. When Sergio Reyes shows up at Tio's Tacos, he's just what her grandma says she needs to order: handsome, charming, and maybe even interested in her. He seems like exactly what she needs to get over her heartbreak, but even so, she can't seem to get that boss out of her head. Her grandma's recipe for love gets a new ingredient when Chris gets back in touch. He is definitely still interested. Kylie has to figure out what she really wants— "a fling with the man who fired her or love with a side of chips.

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Customer Reviews

This is a very good set of books and worth every penny. I received a copy of it in exchange for a honest review. I enjoyed all of these books very much. 1. Salt water Taffie by Janice Thompson Taffie and her parents ran a candy and she plans to take it over for them. One of the machines break down and they call a repairman, Ryan, who ends up helping her to make the business better.

A wonderful love story, great family but not without normal life things happening. Loved the little girl Casey. It was hard to put down from the time the book. A very inspirational book.2. Coffee scoop by Kathleen Y'Barbo By the name of the book I thought it may be about a coffee but about a reporter and a guy that grows coffee beans. A very clever name. Enjoyed how Ryan and Carrie meet. She wanting to write story about him and wants to think the worst but things turn out different. This is also a very inspirational book.3. The sweetheart of starlight by Lynette Sowell Love the story of Rick and Tamarind. They both have restaurants and met doing competitions. But when he opens a restaurant in starlight where hers is at he doesn't really do it for competition. He loves the town. A very good book in this set. I did see there is two other books in this series, will definitely check them out.4. Bargains, ballots, and the bakery by Carol Moncado A very fast moving story about Grayson and Brianna. He shows up to help her at the bakery but she was not aware of it. But ends up teaching him how to make some of the baked goodies. He decides to run for mayor, which is very interesting part. I did enjoy this book.5. Love with a side of Chips Kylie loses her job and ends up helping at the family Mexican restaurant. She ends up meeting Sergio there but has a lot of misunderstanding going on with all the men in her life. Enjoyed it and left me wanting some Mexican food.

Delightful stories. Each one has a definite place in this collection. From a Taffy Store to a Mexican Food restaurant, each love story is a good read, clean and uplifting. There is just enough humor to tickle a funny bone. Highly recommend this collection. I received a copy in exchange for an honest review.

I purchased this collection, as I'm a huge fan of Janice Thompson. Her writing is impeccable. However, these other stories didn't live up to the hype and expectations that I had. Only Mrs. Thompson's and Y'Barro's writings were satisfying. The others had characters I couldn't get attached to and were bland, especially in the third and last stories. I didn't believe that the two opposing characters should end up together. They didn't seem to have anything in common and did not possess a single iota of chemistry. One critique that I must point out is that if you're Catholic, you will probably be up in arms about the third story involving the rival barbecue joints. I don't like it when Protestant authors try to "convert" Catholics in stories and/or criticize the Church severely. Even though Mrs. Thompson is not Catholic, she is always very respectful of Catholics in her writing and includes them in her stories. This writer, Sowell, goes so far as to try to convert him and spout falsehoods about the Catholic Church in her story. Very disappointing. Save your money.

I really enjoyed this collection of novellas. From a candy store, to a coffee shop, to barbecue, to a bakery and finally a taco place, they all had great characters, humor and storylines. I think my favorite was Bargains, Ballots, & the Bakery by Carol Moncado because I could relate to the male character and how he grew up. Every character deals with issues that bring them closer to God and help them deal with whatever happened in their pasts to put them in the position they are currently in. If you're looking for something to read that is light and uplifting then I recommend this set.

There are five books by various authors and all are very enjoyable. Must read! Salt Water Taffee has a woman named Taffie and a man named Ryan trying to find out if they are ever going to get what they desire. Coffee Scoop involves Carrie and another Ryan. One wishes to do good with what they have while the other seeks to find out if it is a scheme. The Sweetheart of Starlight features Tamarind and Rich who are great chefs. Tamarind already has a good restaurant called The Pit in Starlight, Texas so why does she feel threatened by Rich's plans for his own barbecue restaurant? Bargains, Ballots, and the Bakery features Grayson and Brianna meeting for the first time because of Millie's Brianna's grandmother. Grayson was hired by Millie to help her, but Millie has died and Brianna isn't sure about him. However she gives him a chance to help her. Will they find what they are looking for? Love with a Side of Chips features Kylie, who after losing her teaching contract and goes to work at her uncle's restaurant Tio's Tacos. There she meets Sergio, but she doesn't know what to make of him. A great collection.

Table for Two So far I've read: Bargains, Ballots, and the Bakery by Carol Moncado. This is a quick but delightful story of Brianna who took over her grandmother's bakery. Brianna was overwhelmed to say the least when Grayson steps into the bakery with news that her recently deceased grandmother had given him a job that she had no knowledge of yet she was so in need of help! Neither Brianna or Grayson are seeking for anything but to keep the bakery going...but then comes the ballots and the bargain part! Moncado knows how to write great novels and this novella, though short, is a fun, entertaining, and romantic read that all will enjoy! I was gifted this book in exchange for my honest review.

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