



## **The Marrying Type**

*Laura Chapman*

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Always the wedding planner, never a bride, Elliot Lynch is famous for orchestrating the splashiest weddings in Charleston, South Carolina. When her father's sloppy management practices leave them on the brink of bankruptcy, Elliot will do whatever it takes to save the family business. When asked to appear on "The Marrying Type," a reality TV show about the people behind the scenes as couples exchange I dos, she says yes to the invasion of privacy (and the hefty paycheck that comes with it).

With a camera crew capturing every detail of her life, Elliot faces her most challenging contract yet: planning a wedding where her ex is involved in every part of the process. Add in a lazy assistant, liquor-loving bridesmaid, and rival planner encroaching on her turf, and Elliot's wedding season goes from high-end to high-stress.

Forced to confront her past, Elliot must live out her troubled present on national TV if she has any hope of saving her future.

## **The Marrying Type Details**

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Author : Laura Chapman

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## **From Reader Review The Marrying Type for online ebook**

### **Mrs Mommy Booknerd <http://mrsmommybooknerd.blogspot.com> says**

There are books that really capture the trials and tribulations of life and THE MARRYING TYPE is one of those great reads that captures of the ups and downs we can all relate to. There is an interesting and fun cast of characters that accompany Elliot on her journey. Having her whole experience captured, on a reality show that she has decided to be featured on because the money was to great to turn down, she experiences some crazy situations. The whole time I was reading I was thinking "what if this was me?". I found myself considering what I would do in Elliot's place...such fun it is to put yourself in the shoes of the main character. This novel is entertaining, fun and a great read for the girls in your book club!

4.0 stars

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### **Kate Maxwell says**

What a fun retelling of Jane Austen's "Persuasion"! Elliot was strong, Eric was fine and the dad was clueless. It was neat to see how someone could modernize my favorite JA book - and Laura Chapman did a great job! I would have liked to have seen more in the ending, but it was still good.

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### **Melinda says**

I was totally caught off guard with this book, in a good way. Chapman surprised me with a clever narrative and lovable characters.

Reality TV show involving wedding planners, estranged old flames reunite, along with family issues conjoin creating a nifty plot. Chapman balances the ingredients with ease. The plot carries a certain depth exploring multiple themes and an array of topics. The pace is perfect filled with numerous surprises and multiple layers. The awkwardness and tension between Elliot and Eric was well done, the slow build of the random tender moments was perfect. Their shared apprehension and assumptions cause plausibility. The reader will cheer for both Elliot and Eric as they try to mend the years separating them as well as their painful past. Elliot steals your heart, wonderful watching her blossom and stand up for herself. Characterization was exceptional, enough back history, secondary characters were introduced with detail too. Chapman keeps you guessing until the very end. Whimsical story not lacking a punch. Fun read filled with strong messages.

**"Even if I never find love again, I did once. I loved and was loved, and it was beautiful. Sometimes it lasts forever. Other times it's for a year of college. But it is never forgotten."**

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## **Celia Kennedy says**

Life for Elliot Lynch is like riding on a roller coaster - gradual ups, with steep rushes into despair, and then the gentle skip along the track of life where one catches their breath, knowing that a steep climb is about to begin again.

Elliot runs the family wedding planning business, Engagements. Once her mothers vision - it is now Elliot's legacy, and one she aims to make work. Putting in the blood, sweat, and tears, Elliot gives the business her all, but it seems that may not be enough.

With debt to pay-off, Elliot allows her cousin - who produces Reality TV shows - to follow her through the trials and tribulations of wedding planning - including the wedding of her ex-fiancé's sister, in return for a hefty fee. Not having seen "him" in years, Elliot's nerves, which are already jangling, stretch to their limits once he arrives on the scene.

There is a large cast of characters - many quite quirky and hilarious. Some very interesting twists and turns - one quite unexpected.

Each chapter begins with a lovely quote on the state of marriage. It is my opinion that Ms. Chapman has done a fabulous job at marrying the best blend of romance with regret, life with fantasy, and past with present.

I wonder what this book would be like to read on the beach, whilst on your honeymoon... A great read - a great escape.

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## **Kaley says**

Originally reviewed at Books Etc.

There was a moment after finishing my event management post-grad program that I considered getting into wedding planning. It was a brief moment. I realized I just wasn't cut out for dealing with the brides nor did I want to give up every summer weekend. But that doesn't mean I'm not still interested in the whole wedding thing. So, when Laura Chapman asked if I would review her latest novel, *The Marrying Type*, I jumped at the chance to see what one of my favourite authors would do with the popular wedding planner story.

There is so much going on in this book but that is what makes it so good. Chapman expertly weaves together every storyline and everything flows and fits together perfectly. Yes, there is a drunk, out of control bridesmaid and a reality TV show and family drama and an ex who is back in town BUT *The Marrying Type* would not be the amazing novel that it is if any one of those elements had been left out. It's wedding season in the south. Of course it's crazy! :)

I loved Elliot. She's one of those characters who is just flawed enough at the beginning of the story that she's not annoying and you know she's going to get herself on the right path by the end. It's not that she was imperfect, exactly, it's just that she was totally realistic. She had her issues and hang ups like anyone else does and that was refreshing. I really enjoyed reading about her life and I was rooting for her throughout the entire novel.

I can't finish this review without mentioning the romance in this novel. Even though I knew Elliot's ex, Eric, would be showing up (thanks to the synopsis) I had no idea how or when he would arrive back in Elliot's life. I was constantly surprised by what happened in their relationship and I loved that. They had some major obstacles to overcome but I really wanted a Happily Ever After for the two of them because they just seemed so perfect together!

Fun fact: The Marrying Type is a bit of a modern take on Jane Austen's *Persuasion*. I absolutely loved that. It's a bit of a subtle homage but Chapman does an amazing job of updating the classic story while still making this novel all her own. And if you haven't read *Persuasion* yet, get on it. \*makes note to reread the novel as soon as possible.\*

I loved loved loved The Marrying Type. I actually read it while on vacation on a cruise ship and I hate that I couldn't tweet or message Laura to tell her how much I was loving it! It's such a great story about a twentysomething wedding planner trying to figure out her career and solve all her family's problems. Bonus, there's an amazingly sweet love story too! So far I've loved everything Laura Chapman has written and I absolutely cannot wait to see what she comes out with next!

\*A copy of this novel was provided by the author in exchange for review consideration. All reviews are honest and my own.\*

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### **Debbie Brown says**

This is a well done modernization/variation of *Persuasion*. There's a definite parallel to the original, and the changes make the storyline fit more neatly into a contemporary setting. The character names are altered just enough that those familiar with Jane Austen's work will know exactly who they represent. (My favorite is Captain Benwick, who becomes Ben Wick. \*tee-hee\*) Their personalities are not identical to their Austen counterparts, although there are definite similarities.

The story is set in Charleston, South Carolina. Elliot Lynch (Anne Elliot) is working desperately to keep Engagements afloat, which is an events planning service that her mother started. Mrs. Kelly Lynch died years ago, and Elliot's father Walter (Sir Walter) is soon to retire while her older sister Libby (Elizabeth Elliot) is impossible to work with. The two don't seem to comprehend the seriousness of Engagement's financial condition and are more interested in chasing after Mrs. Dalrymple's high profile social events than helping with the daily challenges of wedding planning that Elliot handles. When Elliot's cousin Marissa (Mary Musgrove) and husband Chase (Charles Musgrove) offer her a big advance and payoff to film Engagements as part of a reality program about wedding planners called The Marrying Type, Elliot reluctantly agrees, recognizing there's no other way to pay off the overdue bills.

Filming has already started when Sadie Warner (Sophie Croft) contacts Elliot about planning her lavish wedding to Adam Crawford (Admiral Croft). Elliot is torn because this would be another financial windfall for Engagements but she's concerned about how much contact she will have with Sadie's brother, Eric Warner (Frederick Wentworth), who she hasn't seen in years after a bitter break-up.

She and Eric fell in love and were briefly engaged while they were in college together, but he dropped out to move to California and set up a software company selling the original programming he developed. He encouraged Elliot to join him, but her father, sister and Rosalyn Russell (Lady Russell), a close family friend, convinced her it would be foolish to take such a chance with her future. Eric is now very successful, wealthy,

and well-known nationally, while Elliot is scraping to keep the family business and home intact.

The plot moves on from there with several wonderful scenes of potential wedding disasters that Elliot has to manage. The best is when Rhett Smyth (Mrs. Smith) comes to town. He is a good friend to Elliot, apologetically gay, and his snappy repartee adds a lot to the last quarter of the book.

The author's writing is very, very good. The set-ups for TV scenes are interesting devices that help push the plot along. All the characterizations are really well done. You can feel Elliot's sense of panic as her difficulties pile up. Heloise (Louisa) is every wedding planner's nightmare of a bridesmaid, but she adds to the comic relief at times so things don't get too heavy, and Smyth amps up the humor once he shows up. The reignited romance between Eric and Elliot is also well done with enough misunderstanding to provide a bit of extra angst. There's lots of chemistry between them. I also appreciate that, at the end, the reader comes to understand more about why Walter acts as he does, though you're left free to hate Libby, who's pretty nasty from beginning to end.

It doesn't seem as though many Jane Austen Fan Fiction readers have discovered this book yet, and I'm not sure why that is. I couldn't find a single misstep in the entire story. Highly recommend!

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### **Suzanne says**

Wedding Planner + Reality TV Show + Modern Adaptation of Austen's 'Persuasion'

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### **Sara says**

review for Chick Lit Central ([www.chicklitcentral.com](http://www.chicklitcentral.com))

Having read and reviewed Laura Chapman's Hard Hats and Doormats, I was honored and very excited to be given the opportunity to read her latest novel, The Marrying Type.

Always the wedding planner, never a bride, Elliot Lynch is famous for orchestrating the splashiest weddings in Charleston, South Carolina. When her father's sloppy management practices leave them on the brink of bankruptcy, Elliot will do whatever it takes to save the family business. When asked to appear on "The Marrying Type," a reality TV show about the people behind the scenes as couples exchange I dos, she says yes to the invasion of privacy (and the hefty paycheck that comes with it).

With a camera crew capturing every detail of her life, Elliot faces her most challenging contract yet: planning a wedding where her ex is involved in every part of the process. Add in a lazy assistant, liquor-loving bridesmaid, and rival planner encroaching on her turf, and Elliot's wedding season goes from high-end to high-stress.

Forced to confront her past, Elliot must live out her troubled present on national TV if she has any hope of saving her future. (courtesy of Amazon)

I am a huge reality TV buff, and I felt I received a back-stage pass to a lot of the drama and chaos that ensues for Elliot while she attempts to save her family business, one bride at a time. She is constantly putting out

fires, including her own. Then there's the ex. Eric Warner had been "the one" for Elliot, years ago, before she ended things and not amicably, I might add. Who would have ever guessed that one of the brides-to-be who Elliot will work closely with, would end up being Eric's sister?

I felt emotionally invested in Elliot. It's a testament to how well Chapman has breathed life into her characters. It made it difficult to put the book down, because I wanted to know what would happen next, and if Elliot would ultimately have the happy ending she desperately wants and deserves. I found myself rooting for her and cheering when she stands up for herself in various pivotal scenes, or getting misty-eyed when things aren't going according to plan. True to Chapman fashion, this book was an enjoyable read and a total page turner, every step of the way!

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### **Renee says**

This modern retelling of Persuasion will appeal to Austen lovers and chick lit lovers alike. A fun rom com about Elliot, who works in her family owned wedding planner business and takes part in a reality TV show.

I really liked Elliot. She is the kind of girl I could imagine being best friends with. I've always thought you shouldn't get back together with an ex, so when her ex came back on the scene I was immediately against him. I changed my opinion about whether they should get back together or not a few times throughout the book, and I was happy with the way it turned out.

This is the second book I've read by Laura Chapman and I'm looking forward to reading more from her.

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### **Meredith (Austenesque Reviews) says**

4.5 stars! Jane Austen + Wedding-Themed Reality TV...Could This Be Anymore Awesome?!?

TYPE OF AUSTENESQUE NOVEL: Modern-day Adaptation of Persuasion

SETTING: Charleston, South Carolina wedding season (April through September)

MAIN CHARACTERS: Elliot Lynch (wedding planner/soon-to-be reality TV star), Eric Warner (bachelor billionaire and creator of an über-successful web app), Sadie Warner (Eric's sister and bride-to-be), Marissa (cousin to Elliot and producer of The Marrying Type reality TV show), Heloise (sister-in-law to Marissa and bridesmaid to Sadie), Smyth (Elliot's long-time college friend)

SYNOPSIS: While preparing to take over the family business for her soon-to-be-retiring father, Elliot Lynch discovers the terrible but true financial status of Engagements, their wedding and event planning business... The fact that their family home is mortgaged and they haven't made any payments in months prompts Elliot to agree to be on a wedding planner themed reality show produced by her cousin Marissa. If Elliot thought having cameras following her around while she put out fires and handled wedding drama would be the biggest challenge of her summer, she was wrong... A big and important client has just asked for help planning their wedding, but the problem with this client is Elliot has a past relationship with the bride's brother. A past relationship that ended with her breaking his heart more than eight years ago...

## WHAT I LOVED:

- An Ode to Persuasion: Even before reading this novel I was in love with the premise. A modern-day Persuasion where Elliot Lynch (Anne Elliot) is a wedding planner. How perfect! If there is any Jane Austen character that the saying “always a bridesmaid (or wedding planner), never a bride” could be applied to, it would be Anne Elliot. I just knew this premise was going to work well.
- Brilliant Echoes and Clever Reincarnations: Where to begin? Since this novel is all about weddings and reality TV, it doesn’t bear such a strong resemblance to the plot of Jane Austen’s Persuasion. As a result, the nods and parallels are much more subtle. Readers might not realize all the allusions and echoes straight away, but when they do they will definitely be impressed with the author’s imagination, creativity, and skill. Some of my favorite reincarnations include: Mrs. Smith, Louisa Musgrove’s fall, William Elliot’s schemes, and Anne’s conversation with Captain Harville.
- Wedding Drama and Debacles: Whether it is dress fittings, cake tastings, bachelorette parties, or dance classes, the reader is drawn into and immersed in the world of weddings! Such spectacular fun! It was immensely entertaining to witness all the contention, chaos, and crises that can occur around weddings. And it was definitely apropos for Elliot Lynch to keep a level-head and save the day in her calm and unruffled manner.
- Epigraphs and Promos: Elliot may hate to hear another person say this – but I adored the wedding quotes! Many of them were new to me and became ones I want to save and remember. I also loved how some chapters ended with excerpts of The Marrying Type TV transcript, it gave readers a taste of what the reality show was going to look like – what angles they would play, what stories they picked up on, what was being seen by the cameras. Both were brilliant touches that enhanced this story’s appeal.

## WHAT I WASN’T TOO FOND OF:

Hmmm....It’s Almost There: Not a major complaint and one that’s a little challenging for me to articulate. I felt the romance between Elliot and Eric was almost everything I’d want it to be. There was a painful past, misunderstandings, and undeniable chemistry, but sometimes I found myself wanting a little more tension or sparks for them. In addition, the resolution seemed a little hurried, I definitely felt there should be a little more...

**CONCLUSION:** A lovely and inventive homage to Persuasion! But you don’t have to love and be familiar with Jane Austen’s Persuasion to find The Marrying Type an entertaining, charming, and enthralling read! This is one wedding invite you should accept with great pleasure!

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## **Bethany Clark says**

What an amazing read from beginning to end. It had my attention everyday and it took only a few to read it. (Even while I was at work)

It takes place in the amazing southern city of Charleston, South Carolina.

Elliot has been working with the family business for quite some time and has no realized they are in quite

some trouble financially. Her father has poorly run the company for years and if she wants to save her families home as well as their business she needs to act quickly.

She was approached by a friend to do a reality TV show call "The Marrying Type" and she DOES NOT want to go there. But then, she realizes that amount of money they are willing to pay could save the family home as well as business. She reluctantly says yes.

Then it happens, she has been asked to plan her ex-fiance's sisters wedding. What can she do? She can't say no, it's an amazing account for her business. But then he will be there every step of the way.

So many twists and turns to this story for dealing with her ex, a very load and crazy bridesmaid, a trip to jail and so much more! The stress just keeps mounting for Elliot, will she make it to the wedding day in one piece or alive for that matter?

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## **Jody says**

Review first posted on my blog: [http://spoonfulofhappyendings.blogspot...](http://spoonfulofhappyendings.blogspot.com)

Elliot Lynch loves her job working for the family wedding planning business Engagements, which her mother set up before her death when Elliot was just a teenager. Elliot wants nothing more than to continue with her mother's legacy, but she discovers the business is having some serious financial problems and something needs to be done as soon as possible. When Elliot is approached by her cousin to take part in a new reality TV show, 'The Marrying Type', which is all about wedding planners all over the USA, Elliot isn't sure at first. But when she realises the money she'll earn with it will help the family business, she has no choice but to say yes. When she unexpectedly has to organise her ex-fiance's sister's big and expensive wedding, things start to get tricky for Elliot, especially when the producers decide this will definitely make for some good television...

Set in Charleston, South Carolina, 'The Marrying Type' is a thoroughly enjoyable read that definitely lived up to my expectations. With a gorgeous cover like this, I had my fingers crossed for an entertaining chick lit read and Laura Chapman certainly delivered. The book has a great cast of characters, including heroine Elliot (who is quite serious and passionate about her job, and I straight away warmed to her and could relate to her), her ex-fiance Eric, college friend Smyth, and the various brides and bridesmaids involved in the weddings. I'm always up for a good story about a wedding/wedding planner, and there was not a dull moment in this novel; it had me captivated from page 1 and I didn't want to put it down.

The author's writing style was something I personally really enjoyed; it flowed well, was easy to get into and a good division between dialogue and description, and kept my interest at all times. The book is told from Elliot's perspective, but also included pieces of script for the TV show, which was a nice touch (just like the wedding-related quotes at the start of each chapter). I'm really glad I got the chance to be introduced to Laura Chapman's work and I already can't wait for her next novel! 'The Marrying Type' is a lovely, light-hearted,

romantic read that is perfect for people who love to read about weddings or chick lit fans in general; I loved it from start to finish!

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### **Leslie Williams says**

I received this book from the author and Paranormal Romance & Authors That Rock for an honest review.

Elliot Lynch is one of the best wedding planners in Charleston, South Carolina. For almost thirty years, her family's wedding business have been servicing some of Charleston's most remarkable and royal families. But due to Elliot's father's poor management skills over the years, they are facing financial problems that can cost them everything. Willing to do whatever it takes to recover her family's business, Elliot takes an offer to appear on a reality TV show called "The Marrying Type," which features the behind the scenes of the whole wedding planning business, hoping that the payout would keep her family stable for now.

While being on the show, Elliot accepts to help a very promising couple plan their wedding in the hopes that this job would save her family's business, but she soon realizes that she might face more than she bargained for when she learns that the bride-to-be is the sister of her ex-fiancé. Having him come back into her life after years of being apart stirs up old feelings and the painful past of their breakup. With no help from her family planning this wedding, a bridesmaid that causes nothing but trouble, and a rival wedding planner from the west who wants to make roots in her part of town, Elliot's problems turn from bad to worse. She has to either tough it up, deal with the new challenges, face the past, and pull through or risk losing everything she's worked hard to preserve.

This was a fantastic read. From the first page to the last period, everything about this book was amazing. The characters had their own personalities and presence that just made me fall in love with them, even if they weren't the nicest of people. They made me smile with them, laugh with them, feel their pain, and Laura Chapman did a phenomenal job making each of her characters believable and realistic enough to connect to her readers. The drama had me on the edge of my seat. Every page flipped brought something new, and Chapman didn't let up with the dramatics. To me, that's what made this book. There was challenge after challenge that Elliot had to face. Even when I thought things were going good, BOOM! I was hit with another twist and another turn. There was never a dull moment. I didn't even want to take a break from reading because I needed to know what would happen next. And I loved and respected Elliot. The way she handled everything from finding the right dress for the bride to bailing a bridesmaid out of jail speaks to how strong and reliable she is, even with all the drama going on, and it made me relate to her and want to believe in her every step of the way.

I would recommend this book to those who love to read about weddings and the wedding planning business, those who love a light-hearted comedy, and those who love romance. And even though the romantic aspect of this book wasn't hot, strong and heavy (which is how I usually like it), it was enjoyable. It kept a smile on my face and had me rooting for a happy ending, so I know anyone who likes a good romance will feel the same way. I give this book 5 fangs and hope the next person who reads it finds it as entertaining as I did!

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### **Mary says**

5+\*

Dear Reader,

I absolutely adored this wonderful variation of Austen's beloved Persuasion.

Sprinkled with gentle humour, we eavesdrop on Elliott's preparations for the Charlestown wedding of the year, that of Sadie and Adam, and gauge her reaction to meeting a ghost from her not too distant past.

Will she and Eric be able to walk down memory lane and perhaps discover paths that promise future felicity or will Ben Wick, Heloise and Will give them pause for thought and persuade them that the past is best left in the past?

Dear Reader, I loved every minute spent within the covers of this beautifully scripted book, the three dimensional characters whose dialogue and various personality traits felt real, and the very plausible plot that paralleled so aptly with Austen's.

A deeply compelling and addictive read, I highly recommend this story and applaud Ms Chapman for penning such a delightful tale, one that gently pays homage to our dear Jane!

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### **Meredith Schorr says**

Wow. I absolutely adored this charming novel. Laura Chapman knows how to write angst and a slow-burning, keep you waiting on the edge of your couch, romance. It was so romantic, so sweet, and very witty too. Elliot was a doll and Eric...well, can someone please find me Eric's unattached clone, please? Each time I questioned something and thought perhaps the author could have developed something better, the answer was on the next page. She was a step ahead of me and I truly devoured this book until the last page. Totally choked up several times too!

Very impressed with the author's sophomore novel and looking forward to whatever she has next.

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