

## ***A DAY IN JUNE***

By Marisa Labozzetta

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by Truby Chiaviello

What could be better than an early summer wedding in the foothills of Vermont? How about a wedding in the same locale...free of charge!

That's the premise of Marisa Labozzetta's warm, funny and fascinating novel, "A Day in June."

Labozzetta is the rare writer who can convey a plot, settings and characters with numerous epiphanies in a smooth and fluid style. The author is well-versed in the human experience. She covers it all: Love, religion, family, culture and the changing times. Here is a tale filled with humorous anecdotes, the pointed yet whimsical notions of approachable and likable characters. The novel is like a fine wine; to go down easy and to be celebrated in one's memory.

"A Day in June" has its main protagonist, Ryan Toscano, a 28-year-old woman of mixed ethnicity, Jewish and Italian, who lives in Boston. An aspiring novelist, now employed as a paralegal for a non-profit, Ryan enters a writing contest sponsored by the chamber of commerce of Brackton, Vermont. The small town, suffering hard times, seeks rejuvenation by way of offering the winner a free wedding ceremony and reception nestled in the scenic countryside. Native son, Eric Boulanger, a professional photographer, thought up the idea to help kickstart local vendors and make theirs the future destination for brides to come. Ryan wins the contest. Except there's one problem: She is not engaged. Indeed, her boyfriend, Jason, has left her to join the priesthood.

"A Day in June provides us with a conflict not easy to resolve. Should Ryan come clean, admit her duplicity and turn down a free wedding? Or, go along with the preparations and find a groom in time for the June nuptials? The author sums up the dilemma when considering how Ryan's middle class background contrasts with her wealthy roommate's. She writes: "Ryan's parents, on the other hand, can't wrap their heads around someone turning down anything of value. That is the difference between those who have always had and those who are just beginning to; or, in Ryan's father's words: between those whose ancestors came on the Mayflower and those whose parents docked at Ellis Island."

"A Day in June" is a most refreshing novel. Labozzetta's writing is in stark contrast to the cynical and, at times, servile offerings of most authors today. She is most accurate in capturing the thoughts, ambitions, fears and memories of her diverse characters. They all have good hearts and, in the end, want to do what's right. The novel is not to be only compared to a fine Italian wine, but, considering the setting, a pint of Vermont maple syrup, sweet and wholesome and a joy to savor. "A Day in June" is most magnificent.