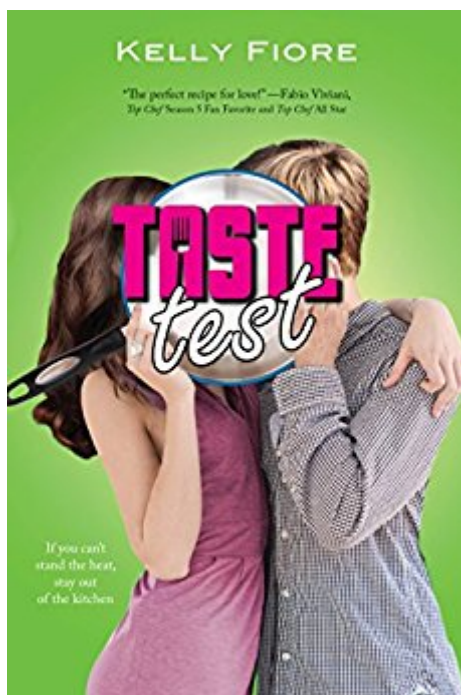


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Taste Test



Synopsis

If you can grill it, smoke it, or fry it, Nora Henderson knows all about it. She's been basting baby back ribs and pulling pork at her father's barbeque joint since she was tall enough to reach the counter. When she's accepted to >, a reality-television teen cooking competition, Nora can't wait to leave her humble hometown behind, even if it means saying good-bye to her dad and her best friend, Billy. Once she's on set, run-ins with her high-society roommate and the maddeningly handsome, not to mention talented, son of a famous chef, Christian Van Lorten, mean Nora must work even harder to prove herself. But as mysterious accidents plague the kitchen arena, protecting her heart from one annoyingly charming fellow contestant in particular becomes the least of her concerns. Someone is conducting real-life eliminations, and if Nora doesn't figure out who, she could be next to get chopped for good. With romance and intrigue as delectable as the winning recipes included in the story, this debut novel will be devoured by all.

Book Information

File Size: 1845 KB

Print Length: 348 pages

Publisher: Bloomsbury USA Childrens; 1 edition (August 27, 2013)

Publication Date: August 27, 2013

Sold by: Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00ECV9YS2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #911,243 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #81

in Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Performing Arts > Television & Radio #113

in Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Children's eBooks > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts > Film #155 in Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Children's Nonfiction > Arts & Music > Performing Arts

Customer Reviews

This was incredibly interesting. Helped in understanding the profession of cooking. Riveting to the end, although I don't know that she chose the right man.

I adored this book. It's fun, spunky, and deliciously addictive. Fiore is masterful at combining a fast-paced plot with a sweet love story that keeps the reader guessing until the end. And the last line...well...it made me want to go to Paris to find Christian (and hopefully see him with Nora)!

Enjoyed this one. Good read. New author. Look forward to her next rendering. Take a chance on this one! You will be glad you did!

Smoke Signals BBQ isn't exactly haute cuisine, but it's where Nora Henderson has discovered her love of cooking. Her best friend, Billy, talks her into auditioning for her favorite television show, Taste Test, because the teenage winner ends up \$50,000 richer and with a scholarship to Paris to study at the International School of Cuisine. Nora doesn't care much for being on TV, but that scholarship could be her ticket to the career of her dreams. Though it makes her a bit apprehensive to leave her single father and Smoke Signals behind, she knows she has to try. Nora is accepted and so excited about meeting other teens who love to cook as much as she does. Though she knows there will be a sprinkling of children of famous chefs or wealthy restaurateurs' progeny, she didn't expect to have to room with one. Or to loathe the other. Or get tingly around him. No, no...loathe. Definitely. Most of the contestants are friendly and serious about being there, and even though Christian Van Lorton, son of bad boy chef Tony Tornado, keeps trying to get under Nora's skin, she knows it's all for the cameras. As the participants take classes, plan for their challenges and have personal interviews, Nora notices that her roommate, Joy, a privileged socialite, seems to be getting a little extra "help" from one of the judges. But when a series of increasingly deadly accidents starts to happen on set, Nora doesn't know who to trust. And her love/hate relationship with Christian leads her to believe that anything's possible. Considering the current obsession with reality shows, this is a fun and up-to-date tale. Though the characters could be a little more developed, and the romantic relationship not so telegraphed, the rest of the story line rounds out this story nicely. Taste Test by Kelly Fiore was published August 27, 2013 by Walker Childrens. A free copy of this book was given to Ink and Page in return for an honest review. Big thanks to the Publisher, the Author and NetGalley. Rating: 3 Genre: Young Adult Fiction Contemporary Mystery Romance Ages: 12 and up

If you like reality shows, particularly cooking reality shows, *Taste Test* is absolutely the book for you. The novel clearly has lots of cooking in it, what with it revolving around a reality cooking competition for teens; there are recipes, and lots of kitchen references involved. However, that's not all this novel offers, as it brings to life the story of Nora Henderson, and what goes on in her world as she takes part in this crazy cooking contest. Nora is such a fun character to read about, as she's Southern and sassy. Her determination to win the contest (and the scholarship prize) is admirable, but I loved how she was also able to make friends with some of her competition. She seems like she would be an awesome person to be friends with, particularly since she's willing to stand up for her friends and for what's right. Her prowess with cooking is made clear as the competition progresses, although she's neck and neck with her fiercest competition: Christian van Lorten. Christian is such an enigma. Even though that's a fairly common trope in contemporary books, I still enjoyed trying to unravel the mystery of his personality. He has a legacy to live up to, which definitely puts a lot of pressure on him to cook well and win. But there's also a part of him that's just sweet, funny and adorable -- and that's the part that I found myself easily attracted to. The mysterious allure he has had me just as mixed up as Nora, who could barely tell when he was being real or just faking his feelings. Apart from these two, their competition and their budding romance, there was also the mystery of who was trying to sabotage the show via its contestants. The turn of events was really a little too much, as the stunts were dangerous and downright scary. But I didn't end up predicting who the mastermind of all the sabotage was until it was revealed, which I think is pretty remarkable. If you're a reality TV show junkie like me, or love cooking, then look no further than *Taste Test* for a contemporary you just might enjoy. While it certainly primarily focuses on the cooking competition, it weaves in the story of Nora and her relationships with the other contestants, as well as a mystery that I didn't figure out at all. It's a fun, fast-paced read, and perfect to devour on an afternoon off!

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