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Love & Gelato



Synopsis

A summer in Italy turns into a road trip across Tuscany in this sweeping debut novel filled with romance, mystery, and adventure. Lina is spending the summer in Tuscany, but she isn't in the mood for Italy's famous sunshine and fairy-tale landscape. She's only there because it was her mother's dying wish that she get to know her father. But what kind of father isn't around for sixteen years? All Lina wants to do is get back home. But then Lina is given a journal that her mom had kept when she lived in Italy. Suddenly Lina's uncovering a magical world of secret romances, art, and hidden bakeries. A world that inspires Lina, along with the ever-so-charming Ren, to follow in her mother's footsteps and unearth a secret that has been kept from Lina for far too long. It's a secret that will change everything she knew about her mother, her father, and even herself. People come to Italy for love and gelato, someone tells her, but sometimes they discover much more.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I knew before I read it that it was a book for teens, just because the publisher's URL referenced on the back cover was simonandschuster.com/teen. Knowing that made a big difference in how I

read it. The prologue consisted of the main character's mother's diagnosis of a terminal and fast-moving illness, then skipped to the mother's deathbed wish that said main character, Lina, go to Italy to stay with a man she's never met but whom her mother trusts because he is apparently Lina's father, and then dives right in with her arrival in Italy in chapter one. Its pacing, especially at the beginning, is, I think, reflective of Lina's shock and denial about being in such a difficult, unexpected situation. It isn't until later in the book that she begins to come to terms with her grief, and that reckoning and increase in maturity is an endearing thing to be a part of. Indeed, if I could sum up the whole book in just one word, it would be *cute*. But then I would have to clarify that by saying that it is so because of its appeal to teenagers (especially girls), its pacing, and its wonderful voice. The dialogue sounded consistently authentic and humorous. There are rejoinders like this on almost every page: "Odette grimaced. "I'm spending the summer pretending to be somewhere other than Italy. Ren grinned. "How's that working out for you? You know, with your Italian husband and children?" I absolutely loved the humor in this book, as expressed in conversations like that and in Lina's and her friend's actions. And, of course, the romance was fun. If you're an adult looking to read about a serious, in-depth, marriage-inducing love, you won't find it in this book, nor should you expect it, except for a smattering in her mother's backstory.

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