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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 barbecue joint since she was tall enough to reach the counter. When she's accepted to Taste Test, 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

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Taste Test by Kelly Fiore follows Nora the small town daughter of a BBQ restaurant as she becomes a contestant in the high school cooking reality show Taste Test. The competition isn't the only challenge in Nora's life. She also has to deal with the cocky and wealthy son of a famous chef that's her biggest competition on the show and possibly for her heart and she also has to solve the

mystery of who has been sabotaging the competition by causing major accidents in the kitchen. I loved this book, it has everything that a young teen wants in a romance. It's got a bit of mystery, a romance that burns slowly and a confident heroine who works hard so that she can accomplish her goals. The cooking segments were fun to read and sounded delicious and the reality TV portion although not super realistic added to the fun of the book. Appropriateness: There's no adult content in this book. The mystery involves contestants being harmed but there's nothing violent or scary. The romance is sweet and fun and consists of nothing more than kissing (if your kid can get past the cover then they'll be fine with the romance). I would recommend this book to readers 11-15

I am so sad that summer is almost at an end and have been looking for just the right book to prolong that fun carefree feeling. TASTE TEST by Kelly Fiore is exactly that book. The writing is great, I love Nora and Christian's characters, the romance is swoonworthy, and there are amazing recipes in the book.

Taste Test by Kelly Fiore is one of those books with such a cute concept that you just have to read it. The second I read the synopsis I knew, good or bad, I'd be reading this one. And I enjoyed it! A lot, actually. It was fun and creative and perfect for a quick read at the beach. The story takes place on the set of a teen reality cooking show, which is just about the coolest concept ever. Or, I think it is, at least, because I can't seem to stop watching reality cooking shows! They're addictive and so was this book (and the mystery that went along with it). I have to admit, I wish Fiore had picked an aspect of this story and stuck with it though. I felt between the romance, the mystery and the cooking, everything was stretched too thin. It all felt vague. If she'd pushed the cooking or mystery to the forefront and let the romance settle into the background Taste Test might have become one of my favorites. But as it is, I think it'll just become a cute book I read one time. Let's talk about the love interest for a minute. I can't say I fell for Christian, but I can't say I didn't either. He was a jerk from the beginning of the book and he didn't grow or change much throughout the story, but what seventeen year old boy would mature in just a few months? Especially months spent on the set of a reality show! The thing about Christian is that, even though whenever he's feeling insecure he reverts back to a thirteen year old caveman, he still has a good heart underneath that bravado and you do get glimpses of the man he might become, but he's not becoming that man in this book. So, no, maybe he's not the love interest that will stick with you and have you swooning all over yourself, but his character is a realistic take on a spoiled seventeen year old boy and I appreciate that. Plus he's one heck of a cook! The thing that really makes this book stand out for me is the contestant

recipes for the dishes they make throughout the show. There's everything from Nora's Three Chili Macaroni and Cheese to Joy's Lobster Bisque with Roasted Corn and Potato Shreds. Mmm. Yum. My mouth was watering the whole time I was reading so it only makes sense Fiore leaves the reader with a few fantastic sounding recipes! While Taste Test might not have the consistency to stick with you after you put the book down, it's entertaining while you're reading and will leave you dying to try out some of those recipes. I highly recommend to fellow Food Network junkies and to anyone looking for a light, but very cute, story.

Taste Test is a super cute and light read. I enjoyed this novel, with its sweet romance and intriguing mystery, immensely. While Fiore did over-do the descriptions a bit when it came to the cooking, it added to the atmosphere and understanding of the characters instead of slowing down the pace. Surprisingly, I enjoyed the descriptions, and as most of you know, I normally detest excessive imagery. The characters were well-developed and the plot was solid. It wasn't my normal fare, but it was enjoyable nonetheless. Nora, for the most part, was a fairly strong heroine. She came across as bratty sometimes, but overall, I liked her. She was extremely sheltered, and that annoyed me some because I couldn't really relate to that, but I still enjoyed her story. Christian is the typical rich "bad boy" type. He was a bit too angsty for my tastes, but I could see why Nora liked him. The dynamic between the two characters was well done. The secondary characters were the typical bully type characters and most of them didn't stand out. This made it extremely difficult to decide who the guilty party was, though, which was a good thing. The mystery wasn't super easy to figure out, but I did figure it out before the very end. The romance was a bit immature at first, but turned out to be sweet. The pacing was pretty much perfect, and the descriptions added to the feel of the novel (as I previously mentioned). I liked the ending, and I felt that it wrapped everything up nicely. When I finished this novel, I was left with a happy, lighthearted feeling. I love when books can give me that. Overall, I'd recommend this book to anyone who is looking for a good mystery, a sweet romance, or a light and fun read. You're sure to love it!

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