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Pizza, Love, And Other Stuff That Made Me Famous (Christy Ottaviano Books)



Synopsis

Sixteen-year-old Sophie Nicolaides was practically raised in the kitchen of her family's Italian-Greek restaurant, Taverna Ristorante. When her best friend, Alex, tries to persuade her to audition for a new reality show, Teen Test Kitchen, Sophie is reluctant. But the prize includes a full scholarship to one of America's finest culinary schools and a summer in Napa, California, not to mention fame. Once on set, Sophie immediately finds herself in the thick of the drama—•including a secret burn book, cutthroat celebrity judges, and a very cute French chef. Sophie must figure out a way to survive all the heat and still stay true to herself. A terrific YA offering—•fresh, fun, and sprinkled with romance.

Book Information

Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Lexile Measure: 780L (What's this?)

Series: Christy Ottaviano Books

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Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 stars—• See all reviews—• (9 customer reviews)

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Fiction > Girls & Women

Customer Reviews

Sophie Nicolaides has always dreamed of being a chef. As much as she loves Taverna Ristorante, her family's Italian-Greek restaurant, and particularly getting to help out in the kitchen, she also wants to be bigger than that and to eventually have her own restaurant. But when her best friend Alex tries to convince her to audition for Teen Test Kitchen, a new reality cooking show, as a way to jumpstart her culinary career, Sophie isn't so sure. She doesn't think that being filmed constantly and subjected to who-knows-how-harsh critiques isn't really for her, but the prize of a full

scholarship to one of the best culinary schools in the country is a tough opportunity to pass up. Soon, Sophie finds herself in Napa, California working and competing with her fellow teen contestants as they cook their way through a summer of drama and good food. If Sophie can weather this through and find a way to be true to herself, both as a girl and as a chef, then this just might be the best summer of her life. *Pizza, Love, and Other Stuff That Made Me Famous* is a sweet, quick, and enjoyable contemporary read about life, love, and cooking. I think what made me like this story the most was a combination of Sophie's strong voice and Williams' wonderful writing. Even the least culinary-inclined reader is sure to be drawn in by Sophie's passion for cooking and her desire to, if not be the best, at least do things right. The fact that Williams really knows how to tell a story helps keep everything moving along nicely with a perfect mix of intrigue, on-camera pressure, culinary near-fiascos, and drama of all types. Every new development in the story felt very natural, which greatly helped the plot flow smoothly from the very beginning to the end.

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