

# FAKE DATES AND MOONCAKES

by Sher Lee

Published in 2023

Rating (0 stars is the absolute worst, 10 stars is the BEST BOOK EVER)



Genre(s):

Contemporary

Action/adventure

Science Fiction

Fantasy

Romance

Horror

Mystery

Nonfiction

Historical fiction

Other:

Dylan Tang works in his aunt's struggling and slowly deteriorating Singaporean-Chinese takeout restaurant, Wok Warriors. As rent starts to pile up and threats of evictions are more apparent than ever, Dylan enters the Mid-Autumn Festival—a competition that entails the making of mooncakes. However, his efforts are interrupted when he meets a wealthy, gorgeous, and charming man by the name of Theo Somers one day during a less-than-pleasant delivery. Theo's life is filled with drama and problems of the wealthy, especially when Theo's father demands so much of him, now asking for him to attend a wedding. When Theo asks Dylan to be his fake date at a wedding to cause some chaos, Theo has no choice but to go, due to owing Theo a favor after he made a large donation to his aunt's restaurant, leading Theo to deal with how to balance rich family drama and the declining restaurant.

Initially, I had been skeptical about this book due to it following the age-old and overused trope of fake dating. However, I was proven wrong by the brilliant writing style and story telling of Sher Lee, as I found myself deeply engrossed in the relationship between Dylan and Theo. Their relationship and drama is both touching and satirical, as they have moments when you can truly feel a spark between the characters and moments when you want to laugh at their actions. The relationship developed between the protagonists isn't a perfect fairytale that doesn't indulge in only love and the good parts of a relationship. (cont'd->)

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Rather, it shows deeper emotions of betrayal, sadness, and a sense of loneliness, showing how not all relationships are perfect and that there are obstacles that will get in the way. Additionally, I loved the use of drama between a rich family. The family members of Theo were nothing short of brilliantly written characters, with some being comedic, some expressing darker and sadder emotions, and some being the very clear antagonists. Aside from its comedic and exaggerated points, the Somers Family demonstrates toxic familial relationships that can be seen in real-life situations, especially when ideas and behaviors are forced onto children. With Theo and his father, it reflects parental pressures that can negatively affect a child's mental state and how implementing the idea of needing to uphold oneself to overbearing standards can only destroy a relationship. On the opposite end, Dylan and his aunt's restaurant do well to reflect small, struggling businesses and the middle class. As his family fights through troubles to keep their lives afloat, it shows how strong the bond between a family can be, and that love in a family will always prevail.

All in all, I would absolutely recommend this book to anyone who is interested in romance and cooking, as it contains a perfect blend of both. Dylan and Theo's story takes one through a flurry of emotions and keeps you hoping for their successes. From the baking competitions, to the dream restaurant, to their adorable romance, there are many things to look forward to in this book. Furthermore, this book contains characters of ranging minorities, with both ethnic identities and sexual identities. Personally, I enjoyed the stories because I could relate to the Asian culture demonstrated in the book, but there is so much more for people to connect to. To give this story a chance can open one's eyes to a world of different identities and people, alongside a beautiful, flourishing romance.

By Mia L, 10th grade, enjoys reading mystery, fantasy, horror, romance, and action/adventure