

A PHO LOVE STORY

by Loan Le

Published in 2021

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



Genre(s):

☐

Contemporary/Realistic

☐

Action/adventure

☐

Science Fiction

☐

Fantasy

☒

Romance

☐

Horror

☐

Mystery

☐

Nonfiction

☐

Historical fiction

☐

Other:

Bao and Linh come from families that run rival pho restaurants, and their parents' long-standing feud has kept them apart for years. When they unexpectedly cross paths, they begin to question the history that has kept them apart and explore their own dreams beyond their families' expectations. Their connection grows, but the weight of their families' rivalry threatens to pull them apart.

This novel is a charming and heartfelt exploration of love, family, and cultural identity. Loan Le beautifully captures the complexities of growing up in an immigrant household, balancing tradition with personal aspirations. Readers who enjoy slow-burn romance, rich cultural storytelling, and food-centric narratives will find this book delightful. A similar book that you might enjoy is *A Taste for Love* by Jennifer Yen, which blends romance, family expectations, and delicious food in an engaging way.

While the romance is sweet, the pacing may feel slow for some readers, and the family drama can be frustrating at times. However, the emotional depth and the exploration of Vietnamese culture make it a worthwhile read. If you love contemporary YA with a strong cultural backdrop, this book is for you. You may also enjoy *Loveboat, Taipei* by Abigail Hing Wen, which similarly explores cultural identity, family pressures, and self-discovery.

By Sophie C, 10th grade, enjoys reading mystery, fantasy, horror, romance, and action/adventure