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Sarita Sengupta is in her last semester of grad school and has finally realized she doesn't have a career plan, a girlfriend, or a clear outlook on life. She works as a pastry shop's head decorator, but is otherwise drifting without direction until a friend's birthday party ends with her waking up in surprise next to Maritza Quiñones, a pretty ballroom dancer whose cheerful charm and laser focus sets Sarita on a path to making all of the choices she's been avoiding.

Certainly, Possibly, You Details

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Lilyvandersteen says

I've been looking forward to this book ever since I finished "Definitely, Maybe, Yours". Loved that book, hated that it ended WAY before I was ready to say goodbye to the characters. So I was thrilled to finally get to dive into the Sucre Coeur world again, and this newest installment in the series totally topped my expectations :-)

As last time, Lissa Reed fills the story to the brim with vibrant characters that jump straight off the page, and I don't mean just the protagonists. I love Devesh and Sunil (who am I kidding, I loved even the small glimpse we got of them in DMY) and Sarita's family at large, I love supportive Craig and Alex, I love Mari's brother Javi, I love Fred the dance instructor, and I absolutely love to hate the story's villain Nicky. (I kind of missed Connor, though, I wish he'd made an appearance, too.)

I'm not going to spoil the plot, but I am going to tell you it's going to take you on a crazy but immensely enjoyable rollercoaster ride and will have you go, "Oh wow, didn't see that one coming!" more than once. And when you're done reading, you're going to sigh in satisfaction, dunk one more cookie into your coffee/tea (seriously, never read these books without snacks at the ready) and wonder how long a time lapse is reasonable before you can start reading DMY and CPY all over again :-)

Pene Henson says

Oh boy I read this whole novel with a smile. I want to live in this universe and know these humans. Even when there were difficulties and conflict, and there were some, the writing is full of bubbling hope and the characters are charming. It's so easy to see why these women delight one another.

Ms. Reed does a number of things extraordinarily well. The immediate bright chemistry between the leads, the romcom with its tangles and humour and circumstance. And the characterization. The whole world with interlinked friends and neighbours and workplaces and a background that feels like it's really there.

I haven't read the first novel in the series and while I should definitely DO THAT, I didn't feel like I lost parts of this story.

This book was just what I hoped, a bubbly rollercoaster full of romance and sweet drama and fun and a whole lot of queerness.

Rachel Leigh says

Gah, but I loved this book. It's light and fun and sexy, but still with enough emotional heft to make me want to punch the villain's lights out. I'm a pretty equal-opportunity reader when it comes to romance (m/m, f/f, m/f, or what you will), but in terms of storytelling, I know what I love. I appreciate characters that unquestionably themselves, a plot with unstoppable momentum, sparkling chemistry, and enough complexity

to allow even the worst villain to remain recognizably human. This is why I keep coming back to Reed's writing and *Sucre Coeur*'s world. I know that she will create a story that is a pleasure to read, but that won't just evaporate after the last page. I remember her characters, I care for them, and I desperately want to see them succeed.

In *Certainly, Possibly, You*, I found myself particularly fond of Sarita. I don't think it's just because I'm also a grad student (although it was refreshing to see a believable representation of a humanities grad student in a book that wasn't focused on mocking academia, bless). In lesser hands, her self-doubt could have been frustrating to read, but Reed gave her an arc that was as satisfying as any physical quest.

I highly recommend *Certainly, Possibly, You*, as well as the first book in the series, and I'm excited to jump into the third book in August!

The FountainPenDiva, Old school geek chick and lover of teddy bears says

The Awesome:

1. The cover. Given publishing's criminal penchant for whitewashing as well as the dearth of high quality stock photos featuring PoC, and given the erasure of darker skinned Indian characters due to their own problems with colorism, this cover is all kinds of YES!!! She's gorgeous and I support any publisher/author who is willing to put PoC front and center.
2. Sarita and Maritza. Queer PoC couples are rare in books which makes no sense. #Representationmatters and it's past time LGBTQ books start reflecting diversity in their communities and in the world. These two are cute, and they make mistakes in not communicating. I'm not into angsty love stories, especially with LGBTQ books. It's actually nice to read about a same sex couple having the same problems without everything being about 'da gay'. Outside of Sarita's self-centered sister whose homophobia had zilch to do with hating lesbians, their biggest issues were centered around their growing relationship and their divergent paths in life.
3. The diversity. It is not hard to write diversely. I don't know why some authors behave like it is. There is no excuse for a lily white world given the easy access to the internet. There is no excuse to stereotype unless an author just wants to be ignorant. Lissa Reed's Seattle is the city I know. The city that despite gentrification is still full of vibrant communities filled with a wealth of diverse stories and people. Of course, Craig and Alex revisit as well as Sarita and Maritza's close families.
4. The food. Don't read while hungry. If *Sucre Coeur* doesn't exist someone needs to make it happen - stat. I love the pun too. I knew two years of French would eventually come in handy.
5. Ballroom dancing. I'm not into the whole *Dancing With the Stars* thing, but I did enjoy the glimpse into the world of competitive dancing.
6. Safe and sexy lesbian sex. Some readers may find dental dams unsexy, but I liked this touch. I also liked how both young women had healthy sex lives before they meet. Given the questionable popularity of "accidental pregnancy" romances in which grown ass people who are supposed to be intelligent and driven somehow manage to forget using birth control, it's nice to read about smart characters respect themselves and their partners until tested and/or ready to commit.

7. Maritza is bisexual. I would have liked this explored a bit more, especially given Sarita's initial reaction. Some readers thought there was some biphobia happening but I didn't get that vibe. With that said, I would have liked more of a discussion between the two of them.

What I hated:

1. Nicky. Standard asshat villain. Glad he got his in the end.
2. Anjali, Sarita's sister. What was her problem?

Off to read the last book of the series. I hope Alex won't annoy me as much as he did in the first book.

Misty Fritz says

I was going to try to make this eloquent, because the book deserves it, but that's not working so well, so instead, here's a list of things you'll get to enjoy if you read *Certainly, Possibly, You*, the second delightful book in the *Sucre Coeur* series by Lissa Reed:

- a hilarious, relatable opening scene;
- two vivacious leading ladies: Sarita, a philosophy grad student and head decorator at a bakery, and Maritza, a star ballroom dancer in the making;
- guest appearances by Craig and Alex (and Fitz!) from *Definitely, Maybe, Yours*;
- a highly irritating (to put it mildly) villain you will want to call many creative names and possibly injure;
- two drastically different approaches to familial relations;
- a bit of angst and a fair dose of steaminess;
- a dazzling array of secondary characters you'll want to get their own novels;
- and, of course, LOTS of delicious-sounding food, just as in the first book. Don't read this one hungry.

Certainly, Possibly, You is available Oct. 6 from Interlude Press. (And if you haven't already, you should read *Definitely, Maybe, Yours*, first. You could read *CPY* without reading *DMY*, in theory, but why deny yourself that pleasure?)

(Full disclosure: I was given an ARC of the book in exchange for a review.)

Shelly Cerullo says

It's frustrating that Nicky made this book so unpleasant to read, because the romance was ADORABLE and Maritza and Sarita already had so much interesting (and not unpleasant to read) things going on in their lives. Would have been a solid 4 otherwise.

Gianna says

Actual rating, 3.5 stars for me. I like this series and the characters all around, but with *Certainly, Possibly, Yours* I became too bothered with one secondary character's involvement with Mari and Sarita's story :/ and for me it seemed to take away from this adorable, sweet, and sexy budding romance over the constant

reminder that Mari's mistaken hook-up with her ballroom dancing partner, Nicky, was the worst idea ever.

I mean everyone kept bring it up. On top of that, it seemed to shout over the message the author was trying to give regarding the dismissal and assumptions bisexual individuals encounter from others who either don't believe in our existence or can't consciously understand that it isn't rooted in some purely weird sexual desire or that it isn't a result of an inability to decide.

I also had issues with some of Sarita's character development being pushed to the back burner as the story progressed but overall, I did enjoy this book. Full review to come soon.

Aleksandra says

Before we start I just want to say I'm heart-broken that this book and me didn't click. I wanted it so bad.

Certainly, Possibly, You is NA romance about Sarita and Maritza falling in love and figuring their life. Sarita is an Indian-American, a lesbian, a philosophy post-grad and cake decorator. She's a bit lost in the world, not sure if getting a philosophy PhD is what she wants to do. Maritza is Latinx ballroom dancer, she's ambitious, driven and she's preparing for big audition is crucial point to start her career as a professional dancer. Also she's bisexual and she's amazing, I love her.

The premise sounds good, unfortunately the book has failed to do it for me, but let start with the good.

The Good.

- Diverse cast of characters! I'm always here for diversity in books and I feel like this is a case of diversity done right. The characters are stereotyped carbon copy of real people. We have here a big family of Indian Americans. Sengupta family consists of two loving caring parents, gay son who's happily married, daughter with husband and kids and lesbian daughter who's one of the MC. The other MC is Mari, I loved her family. Quiñones matriarch is Susana and she's supportive and badass. Mari has a younger brother Javi who's a college student. I love their sibling dynamic. And so on and so forth.
- I like supportive parents in fiction. I'm so over the trope lets-hate-our-queer-child. Both Sarita and Mari's parents are lovely.
- Two MCs had great chemistry together. Their romance had lots of potential but I couldn't focus on it because I was caught up on The Bad.

The Bad. (view spoiler)

I doubt I'll read other books in the series.

TW: abuse, threats, manipulation, homophobia. (Instances of them, they were challenged and addressed as harmful)

lov2laf says

"Certainly, Possibly, You" is the second book in a series that revolves around characters that work at a bakery called 'Sucre Coeur'. The first and third book focus on a M/M relationship while this one was F/F.

Being that I didn't read the other books in the series, yes, I'd consider this a standalone. There's certainly reference to the events in book one but it wasn't integral to the plot in this story.

On the whole, I found this to be an okay read that left me with more of a blasé feel. This is due to all aspects, characters and plot, just being overly simple and kept in the two-dimensional realm. The love story was uncomplicated and smooth, villains were easily identified, and I could see the author put in conflicts to add tension but predictability stole away any anxiety I should've felt as the reader.

What I did like is that the entire cast, with the exception of one or two side characters, is non-white. The love interests here are Sarita, who is Indian, and Mari (Maritza) who is Puerto Rican. The family scenes give us their cultures through food, language, and sometimes clothing so the ethnicity here is richer than just a quick mention of race.

And, the families of Sarita and Mari, though traditional in some respects, are completely accepting of their children's sexual preference and their partners. Sarita is lesbian while Mari is bisexual.

The crux of the story is about Sarita and Mari kicking off their romance at a time in their lives where they have very little time to give, due to Sarita working towards her Ph.D. and Mari, a professional ballroom dancer, training towards a dance competition. The book has some family drama, work drama, and miscommunication/not-communication drama thrown into the mix.

If you're looking for a simple, not very deep, straight forward romance or want a read with characters of diversity you may enjoy this.

Rafa Brewster says

Reviewed for Just Love

I received an ARC in exchange for an honest opinion.

Let me start by saying that I did not read this book under ideal circumstances. All told, it took me two weeks from start to finish; partly because I didn't have much free time, but also because this book simply did not call to me after a long day. Overall, it was a well-written book but there were a few things that kept me from giving it a higher rating.

Right off the bat, there was a minor incident of unexplained biphobia (or what I could only assume was biphobia) when Sarita learned of Mari's bisexuality. It was a very brief moment that was brushed aside and forgiven, but I couldn't help but find it off-putting. I fully expected there to be a story behind Sarita's

reaction further along in the book, but to my dismay, there was none.

Another moment that gave me pause, also early on in the book was, well, dental dam. Yes, safe sex, I know, but I can't lie, the way it was written pulled me completely out of the scene. At the risk of sounding shallow, I was relieved that it only came up the one time, and yes, our heroines went on to have sizzling and safe sex thereafter.

Speaking of which, our two gorgeous heroines had great chemistry and were just so darned cute together. However, I felt that their relationship never really progressed beyond the early dating or hanging out stage, so when conflict arose, I felt that both women were putting the cart before the horse in regards to their future together. I could understand Mari withholding her future plans from Sarita in the event things didn't work out, but Sarita totally lost me when her brain went into overdrive and started planning on following Mari wherever Mari's career may take her.

Despite Sarita being the primary of the two main characters, I felt her perspective lacked depth and I had a difficult time relating to her. I loved that there was a lot of interaction with her (mostly) awesome family. There was even an interesting subplot involving her parents, as well as dealings with her hateful older sister. Drama with her sister did play itself out, but I was hoping for more in terms of her parents' big news. In many ways, I liked Mari's character more – her family was just as awesome (okay fine, I have a soft spot for loving POC families), and her love for dance and her drive to succeed really shone through. With Sarita, I wasn't even convinced she liked Philosophy, never mind that she wanted to continue with her doctorate after grad school (which conveniently fell in line with her plans to be with Mari).

If you've read the first book in this series (which I highly recommend), you already know that this particular author is not afraid to capture our hearts through our stomachs. Not only were there delicious baked goods courtesy of the bakery where Sarita works, there was also yummy Indian and Latin home cooking. A simple word of advice: Have strawberry milk and chocolate muffins handy.

Ami says

I am in love with Lissa Reed's writing style as well as the people introduced in *Definitely, Maybe, Yours* that I immediately jumped into this second book (PS: I actually won this book on giveaway two years ago!). I mean, I couldn't WAIT to read about Sarita and her love interest.

Guess what, I loved this better than book #1!! Go figure! *laugh*. I mean, I loved Craig but I was slightly frustrated with Alex there. In this book, however, I thought both Sarita and Maritza to be **ABSOLUTELY ADORABLE** together. I found myself grinning widely over their first awkwardness (they went home together after a LOT of drinks and dancing, and ended up, well, not exactly remembering each other's names) which later of course turns into relationship CUTENESS.

Sarita and Maritza's chemistry is sparkling -- and I loved the additional new characters introduced by way of their relationship. In addition to Craig, Alex, Devesh, and Sunil, we have Maritza's younger brother, Javier, her mother Susana, her friend Grace, as well her dance teacher Fred. These people are fabulous secondary characters, which made the *Sucre Coeur* universe so lively, and entertaining.

Another thing I love from these books is how Reed adds other things outside of the relationship. For me that's important because it makes the story grounded. You still deal with other people when you start a

relationship, right? Family, co-worker, friends, even *enemies*. I never believe the whole "the world is just for the two of you" saying when you're in love. Not like you spend 24 hours only with your love interest in real world, no?

So here we have Sarita's long-time strained relationship with his oldest sister -- my God, Anjali is such a b*tch, her reason for antagonizing Sarita makes me want to slap her in the face. We also have Sarita's worrying about her life choices ... wondering whether it's all worth it when everybody else she knows seem to have a firm life decision / life path to take.

We also have Maritza dealing with her ex-boyfriend who currently also acts as her dance partner (Nicky is SUCH A JACKA\$\$!); but also contemplating another life decision that will take her away from Seattle, which can jeopardize the blooming relationship with Sarita.

All of this makes a fulfilling story for me. The ending feels HFN rather than HEA, but there's book three already released so maybe I can get update on these girls there. Although I also hope that it doesn't finish right at that moment (view spoiler); and that's the reason why i can't give it more than 4-stars at the moment.

C.B. Lee says

Absolutely delicious. Wonderful rom-com feel from the very start with incredible leading ladies, falling in love, dealing with vengeful exes, meddling family members and well-intended friends, Sarita and Maritza fall in love and find happily ever after despite it all.

Reed does it so well with incredible, relatable leads in Maritza and Sarita; wonderful, amazing people whose ambitions and personal lives are difficult to navigate, but they meet in the most adorable meet-cute morning-after scenario and then start dating from there. Sarita is the head cake decorator at a fine bakery establishment and also struggling with her PHD program; academic woes ring very realistic and relatable. Martiza works in a Italian restaurant and also is a very talented ballroom dancer, with dreams of making the big time, her hopes pinging on a huge dance audition coming up. Girl meets girl, girls run into complications, and there's a mad rush for love confessions and making it all worth it. No spoilers, but if you love rom-coms and that desperate, final moment to prove yourself-- this novel is definitely for you.

I loved all the characters, the incredible support and each character is a story unto themselves, warm and inviting, the Sucre Coeur universe is incredibly welcoming and wonderful. Delightful, delightful, delightful.

Lauren says

The Sweetest Sequel

Certainly, Possibly, You was everything I could have hoped for as a follow up to its delightful predecessor. The characters are bright, funny, and relatable, the drama is engaging and exciting, and Sarita and Mari's relationship kept my heart in all varying degrees of squigy feelings. Overall, everything you could ever want or hope for in a romance novel, CPY delivers.

Xan West says

[Sexual harassment. Queer hatred from relative. (hide spoiler)]

Skye Kilaen says

THANK GOODNESS for this falling-in-love story between two women of color who just like each other SO MUCH. I'm surprised more people don't know about it, because I see people wanting more and diverse F/F all the time!

Sarita Sengupta, a lesbian Bengali-American philosophy grad student who works as a bakery decorator, wakes up after a party surprised that she's in bed with near-stranger Maritza Quiñones, a bisexual Puerto Rican ballroom dancer who works at a pizza place. They were so drunk they passed out instead of sleeping together... and a few hours after Maritza leaves, she realizes she doesn't even know the other woman's name. Slightly awkward.

They sort things out and start to untangle their already-packed schedules to find space for each other, but both women have significant life drama that quickly starts to undermine their new relationship. Maritza holds back that she's possibly moving from Seattle to Los Angeles, and Sarita doesn't want to be candid with goal-oriented Maritza about her own lack of direction. Each is also facing hostility from someone close. Maritza is being harassed by her ex and dancing partner who she feels unable to dump. Sarita's sister is toxically homophobic (and I'm angry at their parents for asking Sarita to be in the same room as this woman!) All combined, they're both under so much stress, it's not surprising they run into trouble, even if they hadn't been keeping secrets from each other.

This book nails that feeling of recognition between two people, that "Oh, it's YOU" moments that pull characters together like there's a string between them. Maritza and Sarita quickly become each other's comfort, the person you run to when you need care, and it's just as warm as a sleepy kitten. The ending of this book is a Happy For Now instead of a Happily Ever After, but it's so satisfying to see these two gals basically start over on an even, honest footing. I have a good feeling about where they'll end up. :)

(A couple of things I could have lived without, though minor: (1) Sarita has what she herself terms a "stupid moment" when Maritza says she's bi, though it's brief and resolved properly. Did Reed just want the prejudice against bisexuals acknowledged somehow? (2) Sarita slaps Maritza on the backside fairly hard early in the book, at Maritza's place of work, and I found it startling and somewhat off-putting.)

This is technically the second book in a series, but you really don't have to read the first book first as it's about a different couple.
