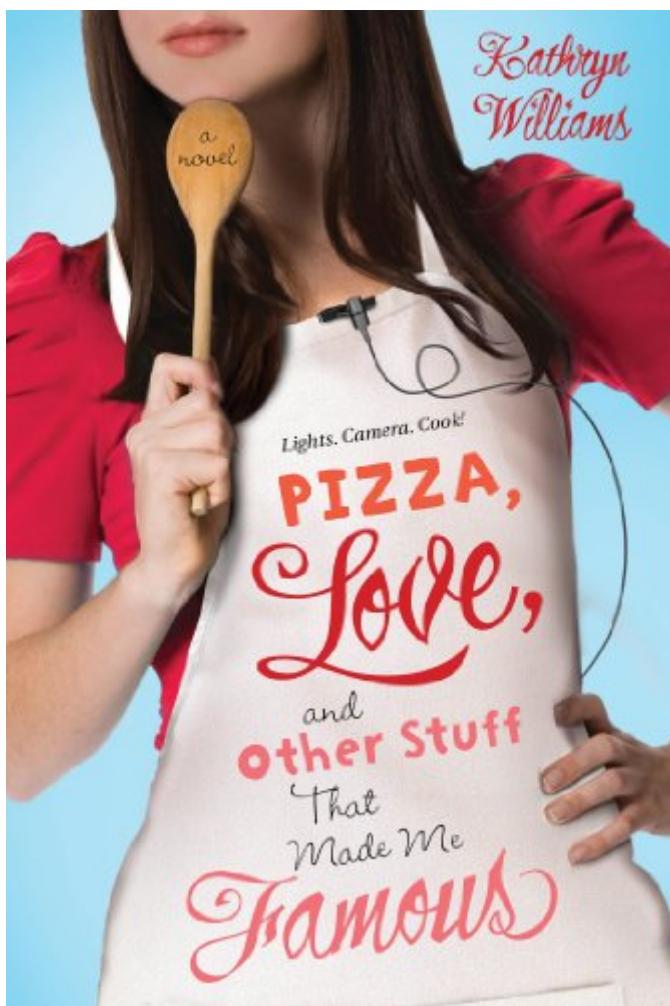


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# Pizza, Love, And Other Stuff That Made Me Famous: A Novel (Christy Ottaviano Books)



## **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**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I tried using this novel in my FACS classroom, but the kids found it rather boring. I did like the recipes. The author is very wordy and almost too descriptive, which caused some of my students to lose interest. They wished the author would "get to the point" instead of including so many extra,

unrelated details.

I liked this book, but didn't love it. I felt really old at times reading Sophie's words... I also didn't see the reason why she kept going back and forth between Alex and Luc, when she had been in love with Alex before she left!

Great book! Fun story with likable characters. Kathryn Williams is a fantastic writer. This appeals to the young and young at heart!

Pizza, Love and Other Stuff that Made Me Famous is the perfect book for a person who loves watching reality TV cooking shows! The story follows the main character Sophie through her life on the reality TV show Teen Test Kitchen. Sophie must face the challenges of learning new cooking techniques, living life with the camera always on and staying true to who she is. The characters and plot of the story are very realistic and will relate with teenagers. The relationship between Sophie and her father remind me a lot of a common parent-child relationship, when the child is in their teens, when they are usually butting heads. The friends of Sophie each have charming and unique qualities, to make them someone you may want as a friend in real life. The main character of Sophie reminds of any common American teenager with the ups and downs of life and trying to figure your feelings for guys. One thing that I wished this book had is a bit more of a powerful ending. The whole story was exciting and interesting, but the ending needed a bit more energy to leave a definite *Ã¢Âœmoral of the storyÃ¢Â•* with the reader. Overall, I really enjoyed this book with how realistic it was to the life of todayÃ¢Â™s teenagers. Kathryn WilliamsÃ¢Â™ book was just as entertaining as watching any reality TV cooking show!

Sophie manages to win a spot on a reality tv show about cooking. She must leave her best friend, the guy she's starting to have pretty strong feelings for, and fight for her spot on the show. Add another cute boy and a bit of a controversy in the show, and there it is. I liked this book. It was a relatively quick read. I really wanted to know how the reality show would end. That's about it. There were a decent amount of characters, and I never felt connected to any of them. I did not like that there were 2 boys that she had an interest in. I felt bad for the one back home even though I liked the one in Napa. I didn't see a way that it could end that I would be happy with the results on that aspect. I wasn't mad about it at the end, but it seemed such a big part of the book throughout that I felt it deserved more. It just kind of ended. As for the show, it wasn't what I expected either. It wasn't

as much a part of the book as I felt it should be. I really enjoyed the controversy and the behind the scenes type of story. There really wasn't enough of it. It was a good idea for a story, and I really wish it would have been better developed. I know it was only a teen read, but the development of the characters and the story itself were more along the lines of a young child's book. Teens expect and deserve a lot more. I debated giving it 4 stars because I did like the story and read it quickly, but it just didn't do it for me, and I don't see it doing much for the target audience either. I actually wanted a quick, cute fluff read and was still disappointed.

There are a few topics I'm just a sucker for. Boarding schools are one... and reality TV is the other. Not many books have a reality TV theme (WATCH ME by Lauren Barnholdt, THE SELECTION by Kiera Cass, even THE HUNGER GAMES by Suzanne Collins), but I've read all that I can find and thoroughly enjoyed them all, including PIZZA, LOVE, AND OTHER STUFF THAT MADE ME FAMOUS. Sophie works at her family's restaurant, and has a passion for cooking. Teen Test Kitchen appears, wanting to cast teens for their new cooking show, and Sophie gets in, where she is enveloped in cameras, microphones, and the cooking competition itself. Admittedly, the thing that I liked most about this book was simply the reality TV aspect. I liked Sophie and the other characters enough, but it's a lighter read so the characters didn't get into depth like they would for, say, a Denise Jaden book. But that's alright. I had a lot of fun following along with the competition (though a few parts moved too fast - I wanted to know more!), and when Sophie and her friends start to realize that the show is being filmed in a manipulative way to get more viewers, I enjoyed the spin and that it got me to think about how that must be done for all shows like this. PIZZA, LOVE, AND OTHER STUFF THAT MADE ME FAMOUS would be a great recommendation for a reader interested in cooking, or one who isn't ready for heavy stuff. It's definitely a fun read!

I grabbed this back in February at my school sale for \$1, and it was an okay read. I've seen this book around and I've wanted to read it for a while, so I was excited. The plot was pretty original with the cooking reality show (which I love to watch), and the recipes were an awesome touch. I might have to try a few of them, I love when books include recipes (like Joanne Fluke). The main character Sophie was very likeable, and it was horrible some of the things the TV show did to her and others, and I wish they would have gone more in-depth with that at the end of the novel (or at least punished them). I recommend this as a quick interesting read.

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