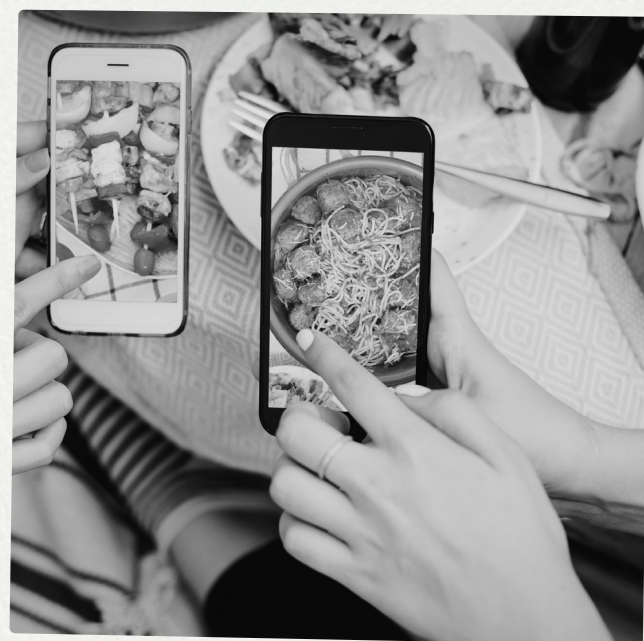


AN AGENT'S GUIDE TO

A Matter of Taste



BY: MIRA LARKIN

A 70,000-word
Contemporary romance

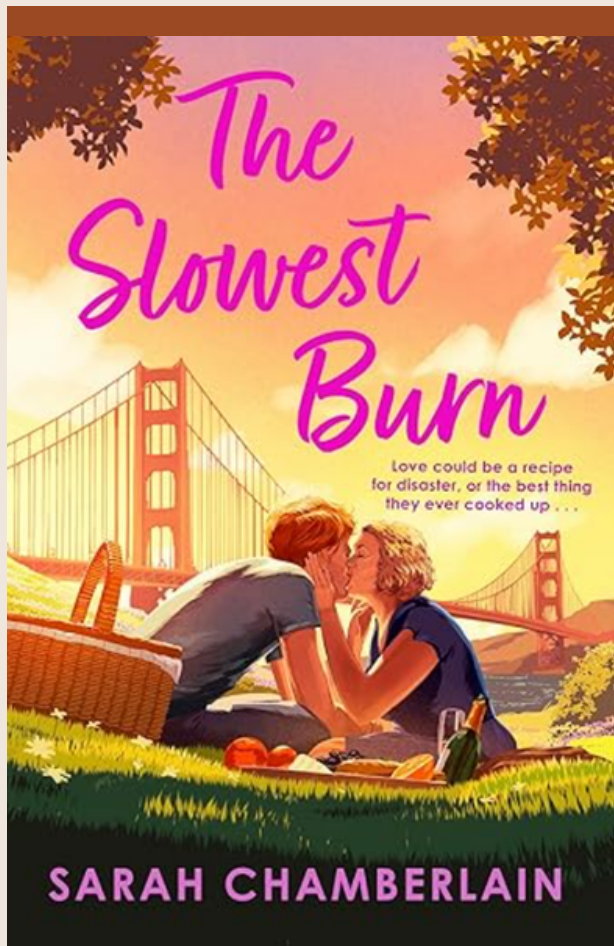
The background image is a faded, artistic photograph of a chef. The chef is wearing a white toque and a white apron over a dark shirt. They are holding a clear glass pitcher and pouring a thick, yellow liquid, likely hollandaise sauce, onto a plate. On the plate, there is a piece of food, possibly a steak or a large vegetable, which is being drizzled with the sauce. The overall tone is soft and professional.

The pitch

After a food critic's viral review sparks a public feud with a celebrity chef, she must partner with him in a cooking competition—and somehow not fall in love with him.

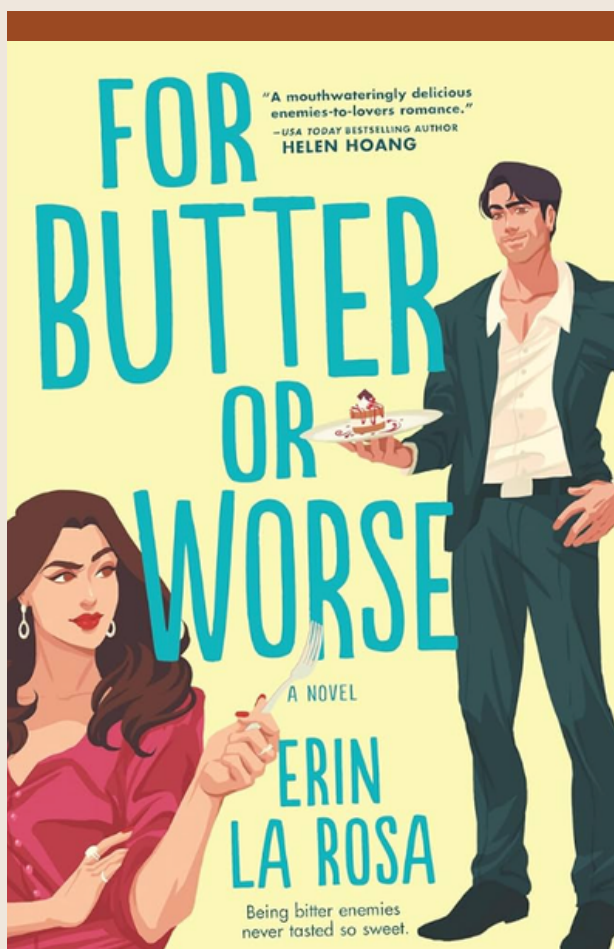
The comps

The Slowest Burn meets *For Butter or Worse* in this delicious, enemies-to-lovers romance.



The Slowest Burn by Sarah Chamberlain

For its slow burn and sharp banter



For Butter or Worse by Erin La Rosa

For its viral rivalry and forced proximity

A Matter of Taste | Mira Larkin

The blurb

Food critic Allie Green finally lands her dream job at *Island Taste* magazine after years of freelancing and waiting tables. But when her debut review criticizes celebrity chef Theo Maddux's ego as much as his food, he retaliates with a viral video that turns her into social media's newest villain. The backlash tanks the magazine's traffic and leaves Allie one mistake away from losing the career she fought to build.

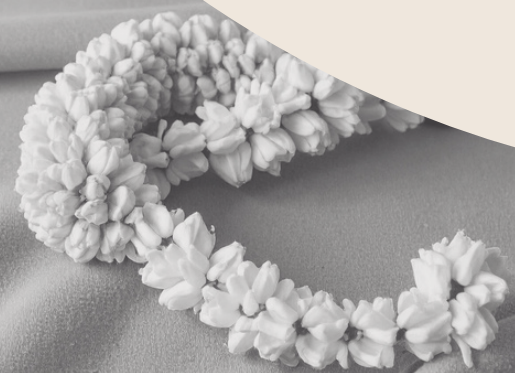
Determined to repair the damage, Allie's boss forces them to team up for a cooking competition at the magazine's flagship annual event. Allie plans to endure four miserable weeks preparing alongside the infuriatingly handsome chef who publicly humiliated her and walk away with her reputation intact.

Instead, late-night prep sessions reveal that beneath their feud, they share a deep love of food, causing Allie to slip from obsessing over her work calendar to daydreaming of Theo behind a hot stove. Falling for the chef she publicly criticized could destroy the credibility she's fighting to rebuild, especially when the internet is still eager to serve up their heads on a platter. But the more she falls for Theo, the more she questions whether the dream she's spent years chasing is worth losing the future she never saw coming.



Tropes

- Enemies to lovers
- Forced proximity
- Workplace romance
- Blindfolded taste tests
- Cooking competition
- Public scandal/reputation arc



The opening

On the long list of things I never saw coming—including the death of blogging, a global pandemic, and mullets coming back in style—kissing Theo Maddux, the asshole chef from Blue Moon, *definitely* topped that list.

Especially since just a few weeks ago, I'd have rather swallowed a bottle of bleach than make out with the guy who turned me into the internet's latest punching bag.

Did that *really* just happen?

"Are you ... okay?" Theo asked. His face pulled away from mine slowly, eyes searching mine with genuine concern. And, was it ... lust? His voice was husky, and his face was still close enough that I could feel his stubble, smell his spicy body wash. I noticed his giant hands around my waist, just above my ass, which he hoisted onto my kitchen counter moments ago. His loose, brown curls fell over his forehead, and he looked amazingly, unfairly delicious.

"Yeah, no, I'm good," I managed heavily, pulling back even further.

This had to stop—now. I couldn't be the girl who made out with the first chef I reviewed. My reputation was already on thin ice. This would be what broke me. I'd worked too damn hard to earn this critic job at *Island Taste* magazine, and every freelance article, every double shift waiting tables before I landed it would've been for nothing.

Then, Theo flashed me a boyish grin that nearly caused me to faint.

I was so completely and utterly fucked.

The characters

ALLIE GREEN

- Waitress-turned-food critic
- Ambitious
- Iced coffee addict

“I want to show the world that I’m more than a waitress with opinions. This is my chance.”



THEO MADDUX

- Fine dining chef
- Avoids the camera
- Talented, high-functioning
- Penchant for wearing old band t-shirts and Crocs

“Reviews are just hype. If a chef is good, the food speaks for itself.”

