

The background features a complex network of white nodes and connecting lines, resembling a constellation or a data network. The nodes are of varying sizes and are connected by thin white lines, creating a web-like structure. The background color transitions from a deep purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. Scattered throughout the network are small, faint white dots, some of which are slightly larger and more prominent than others.

With the Fire on High

Written by Elizabeth Acevedo

Published by cns-cabarete

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With the Fire on High

With the Fire on High

By Elizabeth Acevedo

With The Fire On High

With her daughter to care for and her abuela to help support, high school senior Emoni Santiago has to make the tough decisions, and do what must be done. The one place she can let her responsibilities go is in the kitchen, where she adds a little something magical to everything she cooks, turning her food into straight-up goodness. Still, she knows she doesn't have enough time for her school's new culinary arts class, doesn't have the money for the class's trip to Spain and shouldn't still be dreaming of someday working in a real kitchen. But even with all the rules she has for her life and all the rules everyone expects her to play by once Emoni starts cooking, her only real choice is to let her talent break free.

I binge read most of this book and it was the best therapy session I've ever had

With the Fire on High

With The Fire On High Summary

ARC provided in exchange for an honest review by Harper Collins Frenzy. Thank you!

This was such a great read. So rich and vibrant, I felt like I could smell and taste each dish that Emoni made. She was an easy to character to love and root for and I enjoyed watching her journey throughout her senior year as a teen mom struggling to put herself first for once. Overall, I think this book was just as beautiful as the cover is (and that's pretty damn beautiful.)

My favorite book of the month so far. This was SO GOOD and Elizabeth Acevedo has definitely become an auto-buy author for me. Also side-note: I feel SO ATTACKED that all the food mentioned in this book is not currently in my mouth????????????? It all sounds so damn good I just ðŹœ

With the Fire on High

With The Fire That You Started In Me

"The world is a turntable that never stops spinning; as humans we merely choose the tracks we want to sit out and the ones that inspire us to dance."

Elizabeth Acevedo has done it again! This sophomore novel is vastly different from Poet X, yet it is equally filled with boricua pride, strong familial love and characters that ooze diversity. And that cover - breathtakingly gorgeous!

Emoni is a (part Puerto Rican, part Black) teenage mom who was raised by her 'Buela (grandmother) after the death of her mother. "The world is a turntable that never stops spinning; as humans we merely choose the tracks we want to sit out and the ones that inspire us to dance."

Elizabeth Acevedo has done it again! This sophomore novel is vastly different from Poet X, yet it is equally filled with boricua pride, strong familial love and characters that ooze diversity. And that cover - breathtakingly gorgeous!

Emoni is a (part Puerto Rican, part Black) teenage mom who was raised by her 'Buela (grandmother) after the death of her mother in childbirth. How I adored her abuela and their strong relationship! Emoni's love and devotion for her daughter was everything. She wants so much for Emma and is willing to work hard and do whatever it takes to make something of herself.

Emoni has magic hands when it comes to cooking. Her food literally evokes physical emotion in all who eat it as she essentially pours a bit of herself into every dish she makes. This dash of magical realism woven into the story was perfection. I thoroughly enjoyed the recipes and the emails to her aunt about food sprinkled throughout. Food plays as important a role in the story as poetry did in Poet X.

Emoni struggling to find her way and working towards realizing her dreams was front and center here. It never took a back seat to the love story woven in which I absolutely appreciated. There were many strong secondary characters that impacted Emoni's life and added richness to the story. Her relationship with her best friend reminded me so much of my own that I couldn't help but smile each time they were together.

A lot happens in this book and I happily followed along with Emoni's life with every turn of the page. The short chapters made it feel hard to put the book aside - I kept thinking "just one more chapter" and found myself done before I was ready to let go.

Thank you to Elizabeth Acevedo, Harper Teen and Edelweiss for the opportunity to read and review this emotional and empowering story. ...more

5 stars

With the Fire on High

The world is a turntable that never stops spinning; as humans we merely choose the tracks we want to sit out and the ones that inspire us to dance.

I read Acevedo's debut novel, *The Poet X* last year and I was impressed by her words and moved by the story. When her sophomore novel, *With the Fire on High* came out, I picked it up straight away.

Honestly, I loved this one so much more than her first book. The story was fantastic and it's by far the best YA book I've read this year.

Emoni 5 stars

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Emoni is a senior in high school and a single mom to her baby girl, Emma. She got pregnant her freshman year of high school and has had to carry the title of teen mom through her entire high school career. Things aren't easy for Emoni. She lives with her Abuela, works part time, goes to school, and has a baby to take care of. She feels most herself and most happy when she's in the kitchen. Emoni is an amazing cook. Her food is magic and it's her passion. When a culinary program comes to her school, she is excited to take the class. There is a trip to Spain at the end of the year for the culinary class, and even though it seems impossible, she wants to go more than anything.

Through all this, Emoni starts to fall for a guy in her cooking class. He pursues her but she's not sure what to do. She's got a lot on her plate and romance has always been on the back burner for her. Even though she got pregnant young, she's inexperienced and unsure of where this can go. I loved watching Emoni figure out life and her feelings. She's an amazing mother, passionate chef, great friend and I couldn't have adored her more. I also loved her love interest, and I loved that it wasn't the focus of the book.

This book is important to read for so many reasons. It showcases teen mothers and their responsibility/the way the world sees them and how different it is for teen fathers. Not to say that every situation is like that, but I think most are. It means a lot to me to read about a teen mother in such a positive light as my mother was 15 when she got pregnant with me and even though I'm sure there were a lot of obstacles and struggles for her, she is the best mom ever and she always took care of me and put me first, much like Emoni. It made my heart happy to see this.

I have to note that if you can listen to either of Acevedo's books in audio format, you should. She

With the Fire on High

narrates them herself and does an amazing job. This story is Emoni's journey through finding herself and reaching for her dreams. It's an important book, so very well written, and even though it was emotional for me, it was a lot of fun to listen to. I can't recommend it enough!! ...more

With The Fire Of A Thousand Suns

This is literally one of the most stunning covers I've ever seen. Wow.

a fantastic prose novel from a fantastic author

I'll start this review off by saying that I haven't had the chance to read Acevedo's debut, but everyone I've talked to raves about it. So requesting and getting approved for this ARC was really special and I'm really grateful I had the opportunity to read this.

The book is about Emoni Santiago, a teen mom in her senior year at a charter school in Philly. She's got a passion for cooking and is trying to figure out what her next move is. Take a culinary class in high school? Go to college?

I'll start this review off by saying that I haven't had the chance to read Acevedo's debut, but everyone I've talked to raves about it. So requesting and getting approved for this ARC was really special and I'm really grateful I had the opportunity to read this.

The book is about Emoni Santiago, a teen mom in her senior year at a charter school in Philly. She's got a passion for cooking and is trying to figure out what her next move is. Take a culinary class in high school? Go to college?

But more importantly, this book was about culture and family and roots. I loved the way this story was told almost in little vignettes about Emoni's life. All of the chapters drove the story forward but getting little insights into pieces of her life in the past or little insights about being a young mother was incredibly compelling. And reading a book about a latinx character was really cool. I've never read a book with an afro-latinx main character and I really felt for Emoni and where she came from.

This book was full of flavor, recipes, and love. I also really appreciated the ending and the overall "quietness" of this book. It felt realistic and complicated and messy. And at this point I'm just throwing out adjectives, but just know that this book was a really fantastic sophomore novel and I implore you all to pick it up. ...more

With the Fire on High

With The Fire That You Started In Me Lyrics

LATINO REP!!! YAYYY! I'M 50% LATINO. But you could never tell. I'm as pale as a naked banana ðŸ• 'œ

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ARC provided in exchange for honest review ðŸ• 'œ

With The Fire On High Release Date

Blog | Instagram | Twitter | Tumblr | Youtube | Twitch

"Santi, I want to ask you something."

I stop in the middle of the hallway and wait for him to catch up. He takes his sweet time walking over, Pretty Leslie on his heels.

"Wassup?" I say. I give Pretty Leslie a head-nod and she looks between Malachi and me, her perfectly penciled-in eyebrows furrowing.

"I'm good, Emoni. How are you?" She pops her gum, then lowers her voice in a fake whisper. "How's your daughter?"

I force myself to keep smiling. I'm not ashamed of my baby. I'm not ashamed I had a bab "Santi, I want to ask you something."

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I force myself to keep smiling. I'm not ashamed of my baby. I'm not ashamed I had a baby. I'm not ashamed I'm a mother. I lift my chin higher. "Babygirl's real good. She just started daycare little over a month ago. Thanks for asking."

I look Malachi straight in the eyes. His dimples are gone.

"That's wonderful!" Leslie says. "I don't know how you do it, girl. I couldn't imagine being a parent in high school. Right, Malachi?"

But Malachi isn't listening to Leslie. His eyes are on me. If there was one thing I learned once my belly started showing it's that you can't control how people look at you, but you can control how far back you pull your shoulders and how high you lift your chin. Boys think of only two things when they find out you had a baby: thing (1) that you're too much baby-mama drama, or thing (2) that you're easy. Malachi pushes off the wall, but I keep myself as still as a dancer waiting for her cue before she spins.

With the Fire on High

"You called my name because you wanted to ask me something?"

"Santi, do you like ice cream?"

I glance at Pretty Leslie. She looks as surprised as I feel. "Uh, ice cream?"

"I have a craving for ice cream. If you're not busy after school, you want to get ice cream?"

He's the most serious I've ever seen him. I look between him and Pretty Leslie. The fake sweet smile she was wearing has cannonballed clear off her face into a pool of confusion. Is Malachi asking me on a date? In FRONT of Pretty Leslie?

"I mean I know we're not friends, or whatever." He smiles. The playful gleam is back in his eyes. "But I was hoping we could talk."

I let go of the breath I didn't know I'd been holding. "I'll meet you at the main entrance after the bell."

And even though 'Buela raised me right, she didn't raise me to be nobody's punk, so I don't bother saying shi- ISH to Leslie.

And damn if I don't have a little swag in my step as I walk to English. pg. 107

I don't know exactly what I was expecting as a follow-up to Acevedo's debut *The Poet X*. This book isn't written in verse. It's about a 17-year-old girl who got pregnant freshman year and is raising her daughter with the help of her abuela. Her mom is dead and her dad hasn't been in her life since she was born.

Far from being a sad book, this is a hopeful, rather light-hearted YA considering the subject material. The roughest part of Emoni's life seems to be behind her.

Sure, she is a single unwed teenage mother who is a senior in high school. But her loving grandmother is helping her raise the baby. The baby's father is a piece of shit in a lot of ways, but at least he loves his daughter and takes her every other weekend.

Emoni is portrayed as an amazing cook. She decides to take a culinary arts class her senior year. She is raising a child, going to high school, working part-time at a fast-food burger place.

Her circumstances may lead you to think this book is depressing or full of 'issues.' It isn't. It's pretty upbeat and positive.

Emoni is very confident. She doesn't let people's judgments get her down. She is strong, capable,

With the Fire on High

hard-working, she doesn't take any shit. I don't know how realistic this is - I suppose it is possible someone could build up these skills after three years of being a single parent. I liked her. Strong, confident women who take no shit are my jam.

She has a strong female friendship with her lesbian bff Angelica. She butts heads with mean-girl Pretty Leslie. She starts dating for the first time since her child was born, and that comes with its own set of problems, especially involving her piece-of-shit ex.

The book isn't really a romance. Nor is it a struggle-book. Nor is it about race and class. Nor is it about being Latina and cultural mazes. Instead, it's kind of a mixture of all of these things. And always with a kind of hopeful, positive seasoning sprinkled over it all. Acevedo never makes us feel hopeless or despairing, even though that's how most people would feel being in Emoni's position. But she's relentlessly optimistic and she doesn't let life or other people get her down.

I was a little bit afraid this was going to be a tired rehashing of my-magical-cooking-makes-people-feel-things-when-they-eat-it, especially after this passage on page 45.

When he finally shoved into me, it stung. For a second I wasn't sure if I wanted to push him away or pull him closer, and then he was panting and sweating on my chest and apologizing. And I kept telling him it was okay, thinking he was apologizing for hurting me, until I realized he was apologizing because it was over. I never even took off my bra. It didn't even last the entire Weeknd song playing in the background. A bubble of disappointment swelled in my chest and I didn't know if I was holding back laughter, tears, or a feeling that I didn't know then how to name. All I could keep thinking was that he definitely didn't have any sweet words or niceness in the moment that I needed it most. I cleaned my own self up, put on my pants, and left. He didn't even say goodbye.

When I got home that afternoon, I peeled a ripe plantain. Its skin, dark as night, letting me know how sweet it would be. I sliced the plantain up into a dozen ovals, tossed them into a pan on the highest heat, and cooked them until they almost burned; the sugar turned bitter. I plated them with no accompaniment and I ate and ate until there was nothing left on my plate but a smear of oil.

It made me sick to my stomach.

To this day, whenever I've served someone maduros they end up crying, teardrops falling onto their plates for reasons they can't explain; and I can't eat them myself without weeping, without a phantom ghost pain twingeing [sic]between my legs.

Ever since Tyrone, I don't really talk to boys like that anymore. Boys at this age will say whatever they need to say to get what they want, and I've learned to trust pretty words even less than a pretty face.

Although Acevedo does let us know that Emoni's 'magical cooking' does make people emotional and

With the Fire on High

remember things from their past, luckily this time is the only time she suggests that Emoni's emotions are transmitted to her diners through food. Thank heaven.

Sex and romance plays a side role in this book. Needless to say, Emoni doesn't trust boys. Tyrone got her pregnant when she was 14, and he is a piece of shit. Not just because he impregnated a fourteen-year-old girl, but because he was shit in bed, emotionally manipulates her, cheated on her. Now they are broken up, but he fucks whomever he wants to fuck but she's not 'allowed' to date anyone. He's no longer fucking her (not like he was loyal to her when he was) but he still thinks he owns her and he's the only one who has a right to her body.

He's shit.

Not that Emoni is eager to jump into dating. She hasn't seen anyone romantically in three years because she's learned men are shit and not to be trusted. In walks a near-perfect mensch, a transfer to her school. Acevedo seems fond of presenting her heroines with mensch-boyfriends. It's not like I don't approve, I love mensches. The reason I read romance is to read about mensches. However, some readers may find this unrealistic.

After suffering as she has, of course Emoni deserves a good mensch boyfriend.

Don't read this book for raw realism. Although Acevedo is tackling tough issues like teen pregnancy, race, class, colonialism, being a single mother, having absent parents, being poor, etc. etc. this isn't a heavy book that treats a reader roughly. Instead it is a happy, positive, everything's-going-to-be-alright book.

I think *The Poet X* was a lot more raw (even though that was also ultimately a positive book). People expecting a second *The Poet X* might be disappointed.

Acevedo's writing isn't poetic or exciting. It's rather run-of-the-mill, although she does get some good one-offs like

But then he smiles. Dimples popping out on both cheeks like billboards for joy and I stumble over my own feet. pg. 66

But overall it is not as stimulating as reading *The Poet X*.

EMONI

I liked Emoni. She doesn't allow people to shame her for getting pregnant at age 14. She loves her

With the Fire on High

daughter. She doesn't take shit from other people. She doesn't trust males and she isn't afraid to stand up to them and tell them what the rules are when it comes to sex (she's learned this the hard way). She is a hard worker and she is smart.

"I just want you to make something of yourself," Ms. Fuentes says.

I almost suck my teeth. I love Ms. Fuentes, but sometimes she says real stupid shit. "I think there are lots of ways to 'make something' of yourself and still support your family. College isn't the only way." pg. 123

It's times like these ^^ I was leaping to my feet and pumping my fist. Yes, TELL HER, Emoni! Life is so complicated and unsure, I like how Acevedo doesn't fall into the trap of thinking life has to go a certain way in order to be "good."

Usually I have to urge female characters to stand up for themselves. I have to command them to be stronger and start clapping back but I didn't have to do this with Emoni, which was quite refreshing. She already knows how to handle herself. It was beautiful.

He pretends to shudder in fear, and the giggle that springs out of my throat isn't something I've heard in a long time. It doesn't sound anything like me at all. I feel those first crush butterflies that I thought I'd never feel again, which I know sounds silly for a seventeen-year-old to say, but some days I don't feel like a seventeen-year-old. pg. 167

The book also does a good job in addressing how Emoni is not a girl, even though a lot of people treat her like one. She's a mother, she works for money. She has bigger concerns in her life than if a boy likes her or what the upcoming project is in English class. It's hard to present as a girl, a high school girl but be shouldered with adult responsibilities. And no one can take away those responsibilities and return her to girlhood. This is her life now. But it's hard because often she has to fight 'adults' who still view her as a child even though she is raising up her own child.

I really admired both Emoni's stand-up-for-herselfness and her unflinching shouldering of responsibility and hard work.

The only negative thing I will say about her is that she doesn't care about the lives of other people. She does not delve into the life of anybody outside of herself - with the sole exception of her best friend Angelica, but even then it's pretty shallow delving. Her grandmother, her rival, her mentor, her teachers, her mensch boyfriend - she can't even be bothered to ask basic questions about their lives. She knows basically nothing about them because she has zero curiosity about their lives and what drives them as a person. She reminds me of Conway Twitty from *Twins Under the Christmas Tree*. She has no interest in anyone but herself. She doesn't even bother to learn basic things about other people - including her own boyfriend! - that her friends and family ferret out pretty quickly. It's because she doesn't give a

With the Fire on High

fuck. I couldn't relate to her complete lack of interest in other people. I like to get to know people and what makes them tick. She doesn't give a damn. She could know someone for years before realizing they were Muslim or that their mom died of cancer when they were a kid or that they had parents that were divorced. SMH. She just doesn't care.

TL;DR: Pretty good book. Kept my interest. General story - not focused on any one particular topic, just kind of covering what happened to Emoni in her senior year of high school. That was great because you get a little bit of everything: romance, friendship, family, work, passion, race, class, adulthood, and parenting.

Emoni was a fierce and smart woman - I liked and admired her. She sure took care of her shit and didn't let other people railroad her. I liked her meeting a mensch who was going to treat her right and perhaps change her mind about men.

However, I can understand if people thought the book was too positive. I enjoy positive, uplifting books, but sometimes people read YA for the angst. There's so much angst in YA, and so many books that are just agony-porn in a lot of ways. This isn't, and that might upset some people who want something more raw and angsty.

Listened to this interview with Acevedo on 1A only after I had penned my review, she touches on some of the topics I've touched on. <https://the1a.org/shows/2019-05-06/el...> Link courtesy of Chance. ...more

With the Fire on High

With The Fire On High Review

With the Fire on High reminded me of Robin Benway's *Far from the Tree* in a way that it takes a similarly super positive, almost syrupy sweet tone. Both stories are inspirational and lean on the fantasy of the tribes of supportive people that will lift you up and help you out of the direst circumstances. Fell-good? Yes. Realistic? Eh.

Emoni is a high-school senior, a teen mom of a 2-year old daughter, and an aspiring chef. She works hard, she is nice and calm, she is also kind of bland. With the Fire on High reminded me of Robin Benway's *Far from the Tree* in a way that it takes a similarly super positive, almost syrupy sweet tone. Both stories are inspirational and lean on the fantasy of the tribes of supportive people that will lift you up and help you out of the direst circumstances. Fell-good? Yes. Realistic? Eh.

Emoni is a high-school senior, a teen mom of a 2-year old daughter, and an aspiring chef. She works hard, she is nice and calm, she is also kind of bland. With the Fire on High is a story of Emoni's last year of high school and of her figuring out what to do with her life after.

The problem with this novel is that there isn't really a conflict. Emoni strives for better life and achieves EVERYTHING that she wants through hard work and with the help of her grandma, ex, best friend, teachers, etc. She deserves for things to work out for her, but it also makes for a rather dull story.

I also think that Acevedo's transition to prose from the verse of *The Poet X* was not a fully successful one. For every delightful turn of phrase, there is always a clunker of a "I let go of the breath I didn't know I'd been holding" variety (twice within a couple of pages!). It felt like Acevedo's rather tight poetry was expanded through the use of the lamest YA stock prose.

Many good subjects brought up here - poverty, teenage pregnancy, post-pregnancy body, etc., but it all is sugar-coated a lot too, especially where motherhood and juggling child/school/work is concerned, which made it clear Acevedo knows about raising kids mostly second-hand. Emoni's is a well-meaning story, and yet not very affecting IMO. ...more

A worthy follow up to an amazing debut

With the Fire on High

With The Fire On High Pdf

Okay Iâ€™m calling it:

â™; BEST DAMN COVER OF 2019! â™;

Loving it!!

All I have to say about this book is that, by the end, it had me trying not to cry into the food I was making. Elizabeth Acevedo did it again, y'all.

With the Fire on High

With The Fire On High Vk

Okay, first of all: this cover is GORGEOUS.

Second: The premise sounds bomb af and I can't wait to read this!!

I loved this. The writing is so simple, poetic and yet moved you - I was tearing up at the end, it had the sort of ending I love (says the girl who hates contemporary fiction).

The characters and the dynamics, it all clashed and flowed together wonderfully to create this novel.

I love Acevedo's writing style; the way she mixes things up is so interesting and such a lovely breath of fresh air.

With The Fire On High Audiobook

Before I began reviewing this book in depth, I have to begin saying that I ABSOLUTELY LOVED IT. Plot, characters, all of it was superb.

I loved how the writer develops the narrative. You have small-ish chapters that make it easy to move from one to another, and the lecture grips you and doesn't let you go. You promise yourself just another chapter, 'cause they are short, right? But you can't put down this book, is that good. The narrative flourishes, is easy to read and is really well constructed. Before I began reviewing this book in depth, I have to begin saying that I ABSOLUTELY LOVED IT. Plot, characters, all of it was superb.

I loved how the writer develops the narrative. You have small-ish chapters that make it easy to move from one to another, and the lecture grips you and doesn't let you go. You promise yourself just another chapter, 'cause they are short, right? But you can't put down this book, is that good. The narrative flourishes, is easy to read and is really well constructed. Also, I loved how all the characters have they own way of talking, and it reflects on the writing. For instance, 'Buena uses a lot of spanish words, honoring her Puerto Rican ancestry.

Talking about that, I have to say that I love a book like this one, where the main character is a mixed black woman, and all her relatives and/or friends are also mixed or black. We need more diverse books, representation matters, and I do love reading books where the main character isn't white.

I also enjoy a lot all of the different aspects having people of color add to a book: different ways of talking, thinking, ways to see things... It makes you put yourself on other people's shoes and see how they see the world and how they are affected by people and their reactions (there is a chapter on the book where Emoni, the main character, reflects about it on a bus, how people judge people differently depending on them being white or black).

I really like that a book makes me think, and makes me realise or see things I haven't given much thought before, or even if I had, I needed to see the prespective, you know?

The plot of the book follows the life of Emori, a single mom, barely 18, who has to care for her little one and lives with her grandma. She has been raised by her, and we are gonna see the stranded relationship she has with her father and why things are as they are.

We are going to meet her bestfriend in the whole world, and appreciate the power of women's sorority. And we also are going to met the new kid on the hood, who is going to be a turning point for Emori and her way to relate to the male species, after her first boyfriend left her pregnant and sort of was an ass (my words, not hers... exactly).

And talking about relation ships, I loved the fact that the author isn't afraid of telling girls they can follow their own pace, they can voice what they want out of a relation, share their thoughts and fears with the other person and also ask for time when they need it, let it be before comitting to a relationship or having sex.

With the Fire on High

For all of this, I just loved this book. Is so different to anything else, and so full of uniqueness that I just couldn't put it down. ...more

ARC received by Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.

"Sometimes focusing on what you can control is the only way to lessen the pang in your chest when you think about the things you can't."

The first time I saw the cover of this book I fell in love, it is so gorgeous!! This book means so much to me! This story was very empowering. Emoni was such a strong character and full of passion. Also the amount of representation in the book was excellent. Emoni is part Puerto-Rican and Black and a teenage mother, there is also a lesbian side character.

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The first time I saw the cover of this book I fell in love, it is so gorgeous!! This book means so much to me! This story was very empowering. Emoni was such a strong character and full of passion. Also the amount of representation in the book was excellent. Emoni is part Puerto-Rican and Black and a teenage mother, there is also a lesbian side character.

Emoni is told that she has a magic touch when it comes to cooking. She takes a recipe and makes her own by adding spices she believes will enhance the flavors. I felt such a deep connection to Emoni, she is a badass single teen mom, with a beautiful little girl. Many of you probably don't know that I had my son Noah when I was 17. I understand her struggles, she wants to provide for her daughter. To make the right decisions so that their future will be secure. I have never felt such a connection with a character before, I cried so many tears throughout this book.

When Emoni discovers she has a chance to take a culinary cooking class as an elective in school. She cannot decide if it's the right choice to take the class, they will also be going on a trip to Spain at the end of the semester. She already has to keep up with school work, and she works part time to help cover the cost of the baby, plus actually taking care of the baby. Emoni has a lot on her plate. She dreams of becoming a chef and someday working in a restaurant. This book could have been full of stereotypes about teen mothers, but it wasn't. It was a beautiful story, about a girl despite her circumstances goes after her dream. Oh my Goodness, I'm crying again just typing this review.

"I want to be able to take care of my own and the only thing I would want to study is culinary arts, but why try to learn that in a school when I could learn it in a real restaurant where I'm making money instead of spending it?"

The side characters were also an amazing addition to the story, Emoni's best friend is her rock. She has been there for her all through her pregnancy and remained after the baby was born. She is also a

With the Fire on High

lesbian and has the cutest relationship!

The chapters are also really short which I loved. The start of new sections also has little recopies which I thought was a nice touch. It was next to impossible to put down! With the Heat on High.

Overall, I would strongly recommend this book. ...more