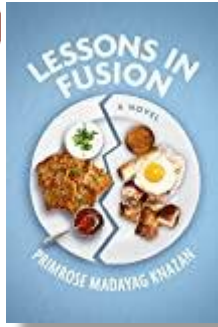


Book Review

Books For Youth - Fiction - General Fiction

Lessons in Fusion

By Primrose Madayag Knazan.



Oct. 2021. 240p. Great Plains, paper, \$11.95 ([9781773370682](https://www.amazon.com/dp/9781773370682)). Grades 8-12.

[REVIEW](#). First published November 5, 2021 (Booklist Online).

Sixteen-year-old Sarah (SAH-rah) Dayan-Abad of Winnipeg has her own cooking blog where she showcases her own fusion recipes and those her late, paternal grandmother taught her. While Sarah's in touch with her Ashkenazi Jewish side, she knows very little of her Filipinx heritage from her mother's side. When she's tapped to be a contestant on *Cyber Chef*, an online cooking competition for food bloggers, she's pushed to concentrate on her Filipinx background. Instead of consulting her mother, Sarah leans on her aunt Cher, who owns an Asian-fusion tapas restaurant in town. The more she works with Aunt Cher and connects to the Filipinx part of her heritage, Sarah begins to question why her mother left her culture behind, and to learn the nuances of true fusion cooking. Told by Sarah with a variety of flashbacks and backstage machinations, the story feels disjointed at times. Nevertheless, family support and solid friendships provide the soft landing Sarah needs to navigate a variety of social, cultural, and pandemic pressures, all while the complexity of understanding one's mixed cultural identities remains front and center. — *Jeanne Fredriksen*



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Booklist Editors Recommend

Titles similar to *Lessons in Fusion*

- *Where There's a Whisk*
- *With the Fire on High*
- *Hungry Hearts*