



## Flavor of the Week

*Tucker Shaw*

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### Flavor of the Week Tucker Shaw

Cyril Bartholomew isn't exactly everyone's idea of a dream date he's a little on the heavy side. Not that he gets pushed around or anything, but it does cause him to keep one very important secret from everyone: he loves to cook. The only person who knows this secret is Cyril's best friend, Chris. Chris is just about the opposite of Cyril-a track star and really attractive in a cool, rebellious way. Cyril isn't at all jealous of Chris, though until the day that Chris decides he is interested in Rose Mulligan, Cyril's lab partner. Flavor of the Week is a classic love triangle between three very unclassic teens, with lots of delicious food courses in between.

### Flavor of the Week Details

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ISBN : 9780786856985

Author : Tucker Shaw

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Genre : Young Adult, Romance, Teen, Food and Drink, Food, Fiction, Realistic Fiction, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit

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## From Reader Review Flavor of the Week for online ebook

### Mommassa says

Fun, easy read. A Cyrano de Bergerac only with food.

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### Breonna DelBoccio says

I really loved reading this book! I love how you see the characters change and adapt in different ways. I also love how you see everyone be friends and be so different around others.

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### Ammagrace says

I loved it!!  
It was cool cause it had like the recipes!!

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### Natalie says

When I picked up this book, I wasn't sure what to expect. I didn't know anything about the author or his type of writing style. Nevertheless, I was willing to give it a try. I was glad I did because I thoroughly enjoyed the story.

The thing about this book and its main character, Cyril, is that he's not perfect. He's an unpopular kid. There is no getting around the fact that he's overweight, loves food and loves to cook even more. His best friend is a girl. She has no idea that Cyril is infatuated with her. But his insecurity and weight keep him from doing anything about it.

Introduce his friend Nick, who Cyril at times affectionally calls "supermodel". That just says it all, doesn't it? Nick falls for Rose. And Rose, despite a bad breakup, is intrigued by Nick.

Nick, wanting to get closer to Rose, convinces Cyril to cook for Rose, as that's her one fantasy. To have a guy that can cook, for lack of a better term, turns her on.

One can see here that what starts out as a friend helping out a friend gets out of control. Cyril is not blameless, nor is Nick. However, you can't really detest Nick. Despite his insensitivity to the rock and a hard place he's putting Cyril in, the guy is genuinely decent. I equate Nick to an overgrown puppy. He's intelligent, good-natured, quick with a smile, but sometimes a little clueless.

Overall, the book was an entertaining read. I enjoyed reading about Cyril and his cooking. Also, as I mentioned, Cyril, nor any of the other characters are perfect. They're teens, so they're bound to make mistakes. For myself, I loved Cyril. And while I wanted to mark him as being an innocent in all of this, one of his cooking mentors tells him that he made bad judgments. I believe that is a very appropriate statement. It's not that we don't mean well, but sometimes good intentions go astray. It's how we handle the aftermath that counts.

Lastly, just a quick comment about the recipes. The recipes in the book were very interesting. As someone who doesn't cook, I doubt I'll be trying them. But they do sound very, very tempting and I'm probably going to mention this book to some cooking and baking friends just for the recipes!

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### **Channah Carpenter says**

This book was not the greatest. Quick read and interesting story. I loved the recipes and how they were intertwined with the story.

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### **Homewood Public Library says**

Overweight high school senior Cyril has two secret loves: Cooking and Rose. Of the two, he considers cooking the only attainable goal. Rose - beautiful, vegetarian, perfect Rose - will never see him as anything but a friend. So Cyril concentrates on his cooking, perfecting recipe after recipe to prepare for his AICA (American Institute of Culinary Arts) entrance exam. Meanwhile, an old friend, Nick, moves back into town. At first Cyril is ecstatic, since he and Nick were once inseparable friends. But then Nick gets interested in Rose. And even worse, Rose becomes interested in the supermodel gorgeous Nick. And when Nick asks for his friend Cyril's help in winning Rose over with a homecooked meal, Cyril reluctantly agrees. Thus begins a subterfuge involving food, lies and good intentions.

Cyril is a definite underdog, and readers will find themselves falling in love with him and his cooking. The characters are all well-developed for such a short story, and the plot moves quickly. The book is also filled with recipes, the names of which act as titles for the chapters (I can't wait to try the Kitchen-Sink Cookies!). If you think it's a bit predictable, you're right. It's a retelling of the play *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Rostand.  
Ms. Heather, Teen Librarian 2008

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### **Amanda Raley says**

I really can't be too hard on this book. It's exactly what I expected. No real surprises. It's cute though.

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### **Nina says**

Nina's Book Review for Flavor of the Week by Tucker Shaw Stew

Ingredients:

1 book Flavor of the Week by Tucker Shaw  
28 delicious recipes related to the story  
1 lb. nice guy/nice girl/fat guy love triangle  
1 whole Cyril aspiring to be a chef and loves Rose  
1 whole Rose, beautiful hippie chick  
1 whole Nick, nice guy and best friend of Cyril  
1 cup thoughtlessly-concocted plan to get Rose for Nick

a dash of pity for Cyril  
240 ml orange juice for reader  
1 sandwich or a plate of whatever food is available  
1 cup curiosity  
humor and warm fuzzies, to taste

To cook:

1. Preheat your mood to read books.
  2. Mix curiosity, book, and 28 delicious recipes until stiff peaks form.
  3. Take orange juice and sandwich with you while reading, to prevent sudden pangs of hunger while reading through recipes and food that Cyril cooks.
  4. Read through the book and become quickly endeared by Cyril's talent, humor, and secret longing for Rose.
  5. Stir in thoughtlessly-concocted plan to get Rose for Nick rapidly, until bubbles of laughter and feelings of jealousy form.
  6. Have a crush on Nick and hate him at the same time. Love his loyalty to Cyril but get disgusted with his pretentious effort to get Rose.
  7. Get a bit annoyed at Rose for not seeing through Cyril's secret cooking life immediately. Sympathize with her for trying to ditch boys.
  8. Continue reading the book until golden brown with author's talent in presenting a light, fast-paced, and creative retelling of Cyrano de Bergerac with Iron Chef elements. Do not decrease heat.
  9. Throw in 1 lb. of nice guy/nice girl/fat guy love triangle and season with humor and warm fuzzies to excite old and young readers alike.
  10. When the book gets a bit burned by a hint of predictability, quickly remove from heat and immediately add funny twists to the story.
  11. Watch out for crisp dialogue forming at the sides of the pan, be sure to mix it together with the other ingredients to improve taste.
  12. Add some interesting and quirky minor characters for garnish.
  13. Makes one humorous, touching, and ravenous serving.
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### **Lizzy Seitz says**

3.0 out of 5 stars

So I started reading this as a challenge to actually read books I owned. The first half of the book felt very mansplainny and I almost DNFed it (or 86ed it as we Kitchen folks say) but I actually ended up really enjoying the second half of the book which is how it ended up with a 3 star. Do I think I'm ever going to read it again? Probably not. But that's kind of the whole point of this challenge- to read and get rid of the books I won't read again

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### **Becca Amstutz says**

This book is my guilty pleasure! I have read it more times than I can count and it is still perfection. The intermixed recipes are delicious (I've done a few of them). It is a perfect happy thought! I end the book each time with a contented sigh and a smile.

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### **James Willis says**

#### **I just love this book!**

I chose my 5 star rating because this book is short and sweet. I've read this book so many times and its better every time. A very tasteful book!

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### **Sandy D. says**

YA romance a la Cyrano de Bergerac, except the boy cooks like a dream instead of speaking poetically. The recipes at the end of every chapter look really good, and the descriptions of food are droolworthy, but the romance is a bit flat and predictable. And I didn't really want to know any of the characters better.

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### **Chasselynne Ryne says**

Flavor of the Week:

The book "Flavor of the Week" is about a boy named Cyril who had an amazing gift of cooking that he hid from everyone. Even Rose, a girl who Cyril has loved for 2 years, doesn't know. The only one who knows is Cyril's friend Nick. This book has so many ups and downs when Nick comes along back in Cyril's life and stealing his cooking to get the girl of his dreams (AKA: Rose). To me this book was so descriptive in so many ways to where it was a constant reading time and the words became movie clips in my head. I would definitely recommend this to other classmates because after every page something new happen, really something suspenseful happen to every single character in the book.

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### **Veronica says**

2/2.5 stars.

I grabbed this on my way out of the library because the title and cover were intriguing. I expected the book to be somewhat corny, but this was rather disappointing. I think the concept was good, but the actual story wasn't quite as great.

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### **Jenn says**

I didn't really love the love interest in this. Actually a lot of the characters were just kinda blah. But I did love the food and the recipes.

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