



Beginner's Guide: Love and Other Chemical Reactions

Six de los Reyes

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Falling in love is a chemical reaction.

Just ask Kaya Rubio, twenty-five year-old Molecular Genetics graduate student and research assistant. Fed up with her spinster aunts' relentless reminders and unsolicited advice regarding her Single Since Birth status, she designs a scientific, evidence-based methodology to find her a suitable partner in time for her cousin's wedding. As any good scientist knows, any valid experimental design requires a negative control. Enter the most unsuitable candidate for a potential boyfriend: the messy, easygoing, café owner Nero Sison. Her null hypothesis? Going out with Nero would establish her baseline data without catalyzing the chemical reaction she seeks.

But when Kaya's recorded results refuse to make sense, she is forced to come to the conclusion that there are some things in life that are simply, by nature, irrational and illogical. And that sometimes, chemistry doesn't always happen inside a lab.

Beginner's Guide: Love and Other Chemical Reactions Details

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From Reader Review Beginner's Guide: Love and Other Chemical Reactions for online ebook

Silvana [The Book Voyagers] says

I just found my favorite book in the whole wide world. I am so in love, while reading this book and the after-effect of finishing it. **Beginner's Guide: Love and Other Chemical Reactions** was so romantic and made my heart beat so fast. Kaya and Nero are definitely my new favorite IT ship and I want to reread their scenes just for this feeling to never go away.

If you like MCs that are scientists

If you like LI that are artists, own a cute cafe and have tattoos, also pretty adorable

If you like crazy situations that will make you squeal and laugh

If you like big families that remind you of your own

If you like ROMANCE and FALLING IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE THAT YOU DIDN'T EXPECT

.....

Read this book please!

Will probably write a better review on the blog.

Geri Reads says

This is my first book by this author, and I'm hooked with the way she writes romance (really strong author voice) and her characters.

I've been intentionally seeking out Filipino authors who write romance either set in the Philippines or in the US (or wherever) this year and Six is one of the names that kept being recommended on Twitter. So I have expectations. Huge ones. And it did not disappoint.

If one were to define The Right Guy as a perfect genetic match, the odds of finding him are 1:300,000.

Kaya is a geneticist who's self contained and has some preconceived notions about love. When she was again reminded by her meddling family about her single status, she sets out to find herself a boyfriend to introduce to her family. But unlike most people, she's going to use science-based methods to get herself one. Sounds like a plan, right? I mean, it's science. What could go wrong?

Despite stringent parameters on her scientific study, Kaya is unprepared for NeroAKA the negative control. Nero owns the cafe that Kaya and her friend frequents. He's seemingly unfazed and laid back, and despite being good-looking and charming, Kaya sees him as someone who is an unsuitable candidate for a long term commitment.

"Nero belonged to a world that rarely collided with mine. A world that valued aesthetics and feelings more than they did fact and evidence."

But plans, no matter how scientific, rarely goes according to plan, especially when it comes to matters of the heart and Kaya found this out the hard way. She found herself spending more time with Nero and because she's so set in her ways, it took a bit of time for her to let go of her preconceived ideas about love.

I started to get swept away with the story the moment things started to get interesting between Nero and Kaya. At first, I wasn't really sure because it was a bit slow for me. But man, that changed quickly once Nero and Kaya started spending more time together. I was swooning and couldn't stop myself from smiling.

I also loved the way the author included Kaya's family. Their meddling might be annoying to Kaya but it's clear that there's a lot of love there. And some of the funniest and sweetest scenes from the book involve her family and Nero.

Also NERO is everything. I am normally heroine centric but as much as I enjoyed Kaya's voice, it was Nero who really made this book for me. He's definitely book boyfriend material. **swoon*

First, there was Nero's lips. Then there was his hands. Then his scent. And then his body. And then everything all at once.

This book made me happy. And that ending...OMG. It's straight out of a telenovela and I loved it. It has the grand gesture and everything. I was in HEA heaven. So thank you Six for taking me there. :D

“So go on. Just go full on science mode. Talk nerdy to me.”

Kat at Book Thingy says

Full review at Book Thingy: [link](#)

It's difficult to pull off a socially awkward heroine, but Six de los Reyes does a great job. She surrounds Kaya with loyal friends, and a rambunctious family, which means Kaya can't be easily pigeonholed. Anyone who knows an introvert should understand some of what Kaya goes through. Nero is hot in an understated way. He's a bit too perfect, but never mind that -- Kaya wins and that's what matters.

I have huge issues with the editing of this book. There are tense changes everywhere and they did my head in until I decided to skim rather than read word for word. I did read all the dialogue, though. Those parts were fun. There are large chunks of internal monologues -- I didn't mind them, but they need to be broken up to make the reading experience more comfortable for those of us who rely on large fonts. There are also some awkward phrases that just need tidying up.

I'm a bit torn. Courtney Milan compared this to *The Rosie Project*, but that book had an entire editorial team behind it and it shows. I love the raw edges of *Beginner's Guide*. Kaya's narrative voice is strong and compelling. The sense of place and identity are part of what I love about the characters. But I can see the potential that a little more polish can bring to this story. Nevertheless, I can't wait for the next book in this series.

Click here for my full review.

Inah (The Bibliophile Confessions) says

It's been a really long time since I last read a New Adult novel. I don't know why but it seems like NA novels from western authors doesn't appeal much to me nowadays. Except, of course, from those that I've read and loved before. But hey, now I have learned my lesson. If ever, I find myself craving for a NA novel, I'll be looking at #romanceclass books! I'm happy to say that this book opened my world again to NA.

This is the first book I read from Six de los Reyes, and this wouldn't be the last! I really loved her writing style. This book is driven by character and voice. It's really interesting to see this kind of representation in books.

It was very easy to resonate with Kaya. In fact, I was able to relate and identify with her since the first chapter. I guess it also goes along with the culture, mostly the university culture expressed in the book. It's very much a parallel of what I'm experiencing in Uni for the past five years. Kaya is a bioinformatics researcher and a grad student in Uni, so that's mainly molecular science. The terminologies used in the book are familiar to me as well. I'm a food science major in Uni, but since I've taken a few courses about Biotechnology and Biochemistry, it helped a lot to understand the science aspect of the book. See, I told you I could relate to Kaya that much. Another thing, I'm also part of the NBSB Club (No Boyfriend Since Birth). I could go on and on about the things I have in common with her but we need to be on track. Basically, Kaya is a little emotionally-detached. She's built herself a world where she has everything under control. She uses the scientific methods on a daily basis.

Being a bit fed up with the routine questions asked by her relatives whenever they get together in an occasion, Kaya started to formulate and plan, The Boyfriend Experiment, with her best friend Eugene. I quite enjoyed the use of statistics on this part, but I have to admit that statistics is one of my weakest subjects haha!

Kaya also enlisted the help of Nero, the owner of In Lab, the coffee shop where Kaya and Eugene usually hang out. Nero and Kaya aren't exactly friends but I love how their relationship blossomed from mere acquaintances to friends and even more! Nero is absolutely adorable and hot. I can imagine him as this hot, cute, tall guy with tattooed arms (tattooed arms are canon it's actually said in the book) sporting a disheveled hair. He's just so perfect, I could cry just by thinking about him. Add him to my list of book boyfriends, not to mention he's top one!

The secondary characters were very interesting as well! Phylle and Francis are funny, the Teddies remind me of FitzSimmons from Agents of SHIELD. However, I really wish I got to read more of Eugene. I guess he's still going to appear in the succeeding books and I really hope I get more from him.

Overall, this book exceeded my expectations. It's not everyday we get to read a love story that features someone working in the field of science with things as detailed as this being featured in the book. I'm really glad and thankful that Six put this story out. Also, I'm glad I buddy read it with Jem so I was able to immediately share the emotions I felt about this book, because they were so damn overwhelming. I'm also glad this book is getting recognition abroad. I've seen a lot of non-Filipinos read this book and they end up loving it! Honestly, this book was a quick read because you won't be able to put it down. It's a mix of drama, comedy, fluff, and steamy make out sessions so I suggest you pick it up!

leenahreads says

Some things in life just don't make sense. It's like all the confounding factors in the world decided to gang up on you. It's like doing everything right, the protocol, the materials, the equipment, everything is right and you still can't get it right. Or the result that you want.

Ok this has officially become one of my **favorite** contemporary romances. Everything about this was just so beautiful, I wanted the book to go on forever and ever. I wanted to see Kaya and Nero together afterwards, I just wanted MORE.

Kaya was such an interesting character, her social anxiety and alienation from the world introduced her to a lot of struggles, and it made her stick to her comfort zone. Except more than once she was forced to face the decisions she had to make when science couldn't help her. I absolutely loved how her friendships in particular grew throughout the book without her controlling it. The way she realized that people actually enjoyed being around her. I loved how she ended up with more friends than she ever thought was possible.

As for Nero. Oh boy! LISTEN I AM SO IN LOVE WITH HIM *deep breaths* he had me from the minute he showed up while they were conducting the boyfriend experiment and started calling it the human sacrifice. He was so patient and understanding with Kaya. AND THAT STEAMY SCENE ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE IN LAB LOLOL BYE!! rip I DIED.

I'll probably reread this over and over again because I'm desperate for a sequel or a novella or just anything tbh.

Carvanz says

While this was a cute book, it was a little too scientific for me. I like a nerdy heroine but I needed a little break from all the “nerdy talk” and would've loved a look into what the hero thought and felt. It had a lot of potential and if you enjoy a book full of science this could work for you. The hero is not an alpha, the heroine is a virgin and never been kissed, there is a bit of humor – especially with her family, and there isn't much steam at all – absolutely no sex if you're wondering.

Alexa says

Honestly, this was just delightful to read all in all. I do enjoy a fun love story, and that was what this was!

Emer says

I went on such a journey with this book! I went from absolutely loving it to getting slightly annoyed and a little disheartened by what I was perceiving to be a certain stereotype to then coming back full circle and loving it again! So I guess I better explain myself.

This book is 100% adorkable. It's cuter than cute and seriously funny! I laughed out loud so many times.

We are introduced to our leading lady Kaya, a masters student pursuing her post-graduate qualification in molecular biology, who describes herself and her experiences within social settings as follows:

“As a student, I have never found it easy to make friends, and these perceived incompatibilities have persisted into adulthood. In the interest of optimising my life experience, I had abandoned casual and recreational socialisation on the basis that the probability of success did not justify the effort and repeated reinforcement that I am undesirable. I am twenty-five years old, average in height but have a maintained body mass index of twenty, in the middle of an advanced degree, and with a decent income from working in the lab in exchange for research supervision. Logically, through the course of my school years, I should have forged solid alliances with my peers, perhaps even a romantic relationship at some point, but I remain an anomaly. Perhaps on paper, I would succeed as a candidate for a romantic relationship and would succeed in reproducing and passing on my genes to future generations, but the field tests conclude otherwise.”

But like pretty much any other singleton in their mid-twenties and beyond, Kaya has to field questions from her well-intentioned family and her friends at work about her single-status and while she doesn't see her single-hood as being a negative thing she does note that there may be a correlation between personal happiness and being in a relationship merely from observing members of her extended family. So she, being the batshit crazy scientist she is, proposes an experiment to test that hypothesis: The Boyfriend Experiment.

With the help of her work colleagues she sets out to see if her lifestyle and personality are conducive to dating and if indeed she can find a suitable romantic partner and much hilarity ensues!

I just loved Kaya from the beginning. She is completely likeable. She is so utterly socially clueless but so incredibly smart! She is this wonderful mix of outwardly confident with doubts bubbling under the surface that she doesn't seem to acknowledge or is in denial about acknowledging.

Where I got a little annoyed by this book, and was pretty much for only about three or four short chapters, is that I thought well yet again a person within the scientific field is being portrayed to be so academically smart and yet socially awkward and naive. I get tired of that stereotype that to be scientifically minded you must only have science smarts but no life smarts. That as a scientist you're somehow more likely to be clueless about how to socialise with the rest of society?? See I disagree with that stereotype because of my own personal experience as I am a research scientist. Or at least I was up until illness dictated otherwise. But the majority of my friends my acquaintances are scientists, laboratory and otherwise. And I don't see that "geeky" stereotype as a common occurrence. Why is it that just because a person likes maths and is interested in the study of chemical and physiochemical processes or other scientific disciplines that they're automatically assumed to be socially awkward? That their work and research is the only thing that drives them?? So that personal grievance bothered me for a few chapters.

HOWEVER!!!

The more I read the more I felt that the book revealed more of Kaya's personality to us and the more real she felt and less stereotyped. She felt much more layered to me than typical rom-com characters and the portrayal of her more personal fears and insecurities made her seem less of a science-obsessed automaton than I at first feared. So yay!!! A light entertainment read that shows a character with depth AND personal growth. And Kaya's lab mates certainly didn't succumb to those geek stereotypes so that was another plus point.

But what was even better again is that Kaya never apologised for who she was. She never apologised for

being nerdy or for loving her job. And what is great too is the spotlight that this does shine on women who work within the STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) as it showed a female character who was unashamedly smart and passionate about her career. And even though one could say that this book ultimately succumbs to focusing on the romantic storyline I would argue it ultimately showed that there is nothing negative about being career minded and striving for that type of success and the personal fulfilment it brings. There's one chapter that moved me deeply because it was so beautifully written; it explored the reasons why we should make no apologies for expressing our passions, i.e. Kaya's love for molecular biology, even if the *popular* consensus is that these passions are either boring, or too complicated to listen to, or even are of little interest. If they make us happy and we are interested in them and willing to give our working lives to their study then basically... SCREW THE HATERS!!!! Let the nerd love out!!!!

This is such a great little book. It does feel to me like a gender swapped The Rosie Project so if you liked that then you'll love this. It's filled with laugh out loud moments, hilarious insights into lab life and some beautifully touching moments. It's not perfect, the build up to the ending was a little messy I felt, but it's such a fun and enjoyable read that I can't not highly recommend it. I look forward to reading more from this author in the future.

four stars

“Often scientists are seen as cold and calculating, so out of touch with their emotions, they’re barely human. But science is passion and beauty. And if you’re willing to look at it from a certain point of view, science tells the greatest love stories. From the cosmic big bang to Watson, Crick, and Franklin’s elucidation of DNA are stories of man’s endless search for knowledge. For finding our place in this vast universe.”

Nenia ? Queen of Literary Trash, Protector of Out-of-Print Gems, Khaleesi of Bodice Rippers, Mother of Smut, the Unrepentant, Breaker of Convention ? Campbell says

Instagram || Twitter || Facebook || Amazon || Pinterest

? I read this for the Yule Bingo Challenge, for the category of *Weasleys: family goals*. For more info on this challenge, click here. ?

"You are this amazing person. More than good enough. There is nothing you need to prove to anyone. Or even to yourself. You deserve more than what you give yourself credit for" (69%).

Why doesn't this book have more reviews? Just over 300? Goodreads, are you kidding me? This is a romance with *everything* people are looking for in romantic leads these days, and it's painfully underrated.

All of you need to get on this, ASAP.

LOVE AND OTHER CHEMICAL REACTIONS has so much to offer. It's **set in the Philippines with Filipino characters**. It's got a **heroine in STEM**. Friends and family play a huge role in the story line. And it's *so adorkably geeky and charming*. It's like a gender-swapped version of THE ROSIE PROJECT, featuring a heroine who's a lot like Sheldon from *Big Bang Theory*, only waaaaaaay less mean.

Kaya Rubio is twenty-five and has never been in a relationship. She's totally and completely involved in her genetics research, and any time she doesn't spend in the lab is spent with her well-meaning but incredibly nosy and gregarious family. When she finds out her cousin is getting married, Kaya feels painfully aware of her single status, and decides to deal with it the only way she knows how -

With cold, hard data.

She decides to date a whole bunch of people, on semi blind dates, using a set of specific categories based on what she's looking for in her partner. To establish baseline data, she also picks the most unsuitable candidate she can possibly imagine: Nero, the artsy-fartsy owner of a bubble tea cafe.

This book was cute. And not saccharine cute. Cute in the way that Meg Cabot is cute. I call it "cute with substance." I loved how smart the heroine was, and how she threw herself into her data. I spent a lot of time in the lab in college, and while I was familiar with a lot of the studies she mentioned (especially those pertaining to neuroscience), some of it went over my head - and that was so refreshing. Who says romance novels have to be frothy? This is romance with substance.

I also really liked that the heroine appeared to be on the autism spectrum, and that nobody made a big deal out of it. I recently watched Pop Culture Detective's video, The Fantastic Masculinity of Newt Scamander, and he mentioned that Newt was socially awkward and seemingly had Asperger's but nobody made a big deal of it and he never had to change for the sake of the storyline; he dealt with people on his own terms, and his true friends liked him for who he was. LOVE AND OTHER CHEMICAL REACTIONS was like that. Kaya's friends know she's a little strange, but they love her for it and they respect her smarts, even if they don't always understand where she's coming from. It was the complete opposite of another romance I read featuring an autistic character, PUDDLE JUMPING, which was condescending as all get-out. Lilly acted like she making such a sacrifice by deigning to spend time with and understand Colton, whereas Nero, in LOVE AND OTHER CHEMICAL REACTIONS, loves Kaya for who she is, and appreciates her focused brilliance.

"I might not understand everything you say, but I'll never, never tell you to shut up" (47%).

I loved this book so much. The chemistry between Kaya and Nero was really well done, and I also enjoyed seeing her go on all her dates. de los Reyes did a really good job at capturing promising dates that go nowhere, and dates that are obviously duds from the get-go (true fact: I once accidentally went on a date with a Trump apologist, and decided to suss out the extent of said apologist behavior by giving a mini-feminist manifesto speech. Spoiler: there was no second date). I also loved Kaya's family, and the focus on her research. There aren't enough romance novels out there that show women working, and loving their work. I love my work - and I think a lot of other women do, too.

The conflict in the last act was a bit frustrating and contrived, but I get it. This was all new to Kaya and she was afraid, so she did what she always did and hid behind her data because she was afraid about the intensity of her feelings. We've all felt that terrible anxiety and fear of rejection from wanting something so much. It was a little annoying but it worked for her character, and I got the HEA I was looking for. There were also a number of typos, which surprised me, until I realized that this was a self-published effort. Girl needs to get herself an editor, I think. But apart from that, I really enjoyed every moment of LOVE AND OTHER CHEMICAL REACTIONS.

"Falling in love is also irrational. So is pi" (89%)

P.S. I can't wait for the sequels. If you need an ARC reader, hit me up! I am so, so down for that!

4 stars!

namericanwordcat says

I really enjoyed this love story.

The writing style takes a while to get use to because it is so internal to the heroine's way of processing the world which is very scientific. Also, she knows where she is and who people are so she rarely signals these things to the reader. It took me forever to figure out she was in Manila.

This worldview is the joy of the book (and sometimes a drawback) as the reader is sitting in a room with a limited perspective and as her perspective grows so does the reader.

There is an extra pleasure for me here because this book is written with a full Filipino cast and location like a map with your own country at the center. I love reading books written by writers from other countries like this and feel so lucky this one is in English so I can sneak in.

The hero and the heroine are opposites which is always fun but it turns out they have lots in common which is why they fall in love. All the family and work backdrop make this a very special book with extra nerdy STEM and Arts love.

I wish there was a bit more steam and couple time at the end but overall the book was a pleasure.

Can't wait for the rest of the series!

Sue (Hollywood News Source) says

Beginner's Guide is the toe curling nerdy contemporary romance you don't want to missed.

Aside from Courtney Milan's **The Countess Conspiracy**, I haven't read a lot of romance books where the protagonist is a scientist where it's filled with countless deduction. That book is subdue in terms of scientific exploration. **Beginner's Guide: Love and Other Chemical Reactions** on the other hand is swarming on it. If you're not a science person as I do, I still reckon you'll dig this story. As I'd like to call it, this is the tame modern version of **A Week to Be Wicked** by Tessa Dare.

Kaya Rubio is your typical scientist who is very involved with her research; she doesn't have any room for anything much less as love life. Growing up in a tight knit family, she's constantly reminded of her *otherness*. She's a woman of logic and pragmatism unlike her family who are chaotic and flamboyant. Everyone in her family have their own respective partner. This separates her from them even more. Because of that, this drove her to conduct an experiment. A foolproof project that guarantees, she'll have a suitable boyfriend just in time for her cousin's wedding.

The story chronicles her every step to failure and success.

Storytelling

I was initially intimidated by the rational tone of the story-telling. Kaya's voice isn't brimming with emotions. I think that's the intended point of the author not because she is a scientist and they're incapable of human sensations, but because she's firm and unbending. She functions with methodologically philosophy. It's quite refreshing once you get use to the concept of the writing.

Characters

Kaya's character speaks to me. There's no cultural difference, since we're both Filipinos. We are expected by our community to uphold our traditions. A lot of girls could relate at being constantly terrorized by their relatives because we don't meet their certain standards, especially at finding your own partner. It's not something any woman should feel inadequate about. Though somehow, it always niggles at the back of our mind that we are lacking. Kaya's journey is a prime example of that.

Ensemble of Cast

As I always note in my reviews I love an ensemble of cast, even more so if they get together and form a certain bond. *Beginner's Guide* is a total fanservice of that. We have an eccentric, but supportive family. There's also the gradual buildup of camaraderie between colleagues that turns into friendship. I love it specifically since Kaya is terrible at making friends, but she tries.

Romance

The romance is definitely the cherry on top of this book. Nero and Kaya have the best build up in all history of buildup. They found familiarity within each other's company despite their incompatibilities. **It's the toe**

curling romance that includes scientific experiments that involve around kissing.

"You're not an experiment, Kaya. You're not a problem to be solved."

I cannot recommend this book enough.

Review also posted at Hollywood News Source.

Chachic says

Originally posted at Chachic's Book Nook.

I've had *Beginner's Guide: Love and Other Chemical Reactions* by Six de los Reyes on my wishlist for a while now. And I was pushed to grab a copy when I saw historical romance author Courtney Milan raving about it. I didn't want to get left behind when it comes to supporting Filipino authors! I read it as soon as I could because I was curious. While I couldn't say that I loved it as much as Courtney Milan did, I had a lot of fun reading this nerdy Filipino romance. I will definitely be watching out for other books written by Six de los Reyes.

I've always thought of myself as a nerd because I studied in a high school that had a strong focus on science and math subjects, and I majored in electronics engineering in college. *Beginner's Guide: Love and Other Chemical Reactions* reminded me of all the subjects that I had in high school and college where we had to conduct various lab experiments. There was a time when I spent most of my hours in a lab too. I used to say that I loved science and math but they didn't love me back because I never found both to be easy. Which was probably why I didn't pursue a career in those fields.

Having read *Beginner's Guide: Love and Other Chemical Reactions*, I can definitely say that I'm nowhere near Kaya's level of nerdiness. It took a while for me to get used to her way of narrating but I eventually found her endearing. She's super smart, but she's socially awkward. The sad thing is she knows it too, and she's given up on pursuing stronger social connections because of previous failed attempts. I would gladly have been Kaya's friend if she was a real person! It's a good thing she has the support of her large and crazy family, so it's not like she's entirely alone. But it's also her family that drives her to try an unusual experiment to find a boyfriend. I think most Filipinos would be able to relate to Kaya's extended family, even if our own families don't plan such elaborate parties. The way the Rubio clan was described was just realistically Filipino. Including the presence of nosy relatives. And like Kaya, I have been the recipient of many, many questions about why I'm still single, when am I planning to find a boyfriend, and why haven't I settled down yet. I guess that's just how Filipino titas (aunts) are wired? So yes, I could understand why Kaya thought it would be worth her while to embark on an unusual experiment to find a boyfriend.

While Kaya's experimental dates were fun to read, I liked her interactions with her friends even better. She's always been on good terms with her colleague and flatmate Eugene, but their friendship becomes stronger as he tries to help her navigate the dating field. I hope Eugene will get his own HEA in a later book. Kaya also becomes more willing to open up to the interns in her lab, as well as other researchers in their science institute. And of course, there's Nero. Good-looking cafe owner, part-time graphic artist and definitely more experienced when it comes to relationships. On paper, it doesn't seem like Kaya and Nero would really get along but it was interesting to see them get to know each other. How they're both in totally different fields and have personalities that are poles apart but at their core, they're just both flawed individuals looking to find someone who can see and appreciate their true selves. I'm glad that Nero got enough page time for readers to understand him better, and to see that there's more to him than meets the eye.

Nerdy, sweet and cute, *Beginner's Guide: Love and Other Chemical Reactions* is an enjoyable romance with strong Filipino values. I'm glad to have discovered a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) romance series that is set in the Philippines. Looking forward to the rest of the books in the series! I need to mention that this book is indie pubbed and there were some sections that could have been edited better (missing words, typos, tense changes, etc.) but I wasn't bothered enough to be pulled out of the story. Just wanted to give a warning in case that's something that other readers watch out for.

Neil (or bleed) says

You had me at Science.

alexis says

Review originally posted on Lacy Literacy

"Often scientists are seen as cold and calculating, so out of touch with their emotions, they're barely human. But science is passion and beauty. And if you're willing to look at it from a certain point of view, science tells the greatest love stories. From the cosmic big bang to Watson, Crick, and Franklin's elucidation of DNA are stories of man's endless search for knowledge. For finding our place in this vast universe."

As an Astrophysics major and avid Romance reader, Romance heroines that have careers in the sciences make me impossibly happy. Knowing that Kaya Rubio, the heroine, was researching Molecular Genetics and the fact that *Beginner's Guide* was based on her trying to 'science' love had me excited going in. From opening *Pride and Prejudice*-esque line, I was hooked.

Beginner's Guide had such a unique voice. Our heroine, Kaya Rubio, relies on science to understand the world around her. Since the story is from her point of view, we get to see her thought process and how she logically breaks everything into a rational science. I loved hearing all her inner thoughts. The way Kaya processes things might take a little time to catch on with at first, but I personally adored it from the start (#littlesciencejorthings).

I related so much to Kaya's journey. Throughout the *Beginner's Guide*, Kaya struggles with her emotions. She attempts to ignore feelings in exchange with rationality, of course, this doesn't work. Kaya also dealt with anxiety, and it manifested itself in a lot of the same ways that mine does in relation to performance, so that was really awesome. Seeing how Kaya's confidence and self worth had grown by the end, was inspiring.

I loved how much Kaya and Nero grew as people, and helped each other grow. Kaya and Nero were complete opposites. She was the rational scientist who had never been in a relationship before, while Nero was the tattooed artist running a café. They had different character arcs that worked well together because they ended up in the place (albeit very different places) they were in for similar reasons. I loved how they built each other up.

Also, Kaya and Nero were ADORABLE. Six de los Reyes used Kaya's Boyfriend Experiment to her advantage, and it created so many swoon worthy interactions between Kaya and Nero. Every time they had

scenes together my heart warmed.

Even the cast of side characters in Beginner's Guide, were excellent. Relationships between males and females in Romance that don't involve one of them liking the other at some point are such a rarity, so I was pleased with Kaya and Eugene's relationship. They were coworkers and roommates. Eugene always gave Kaya good advice, and obviously cared about her as a friend. Kaya's quirky family were also amazing additions to the cast. I loved that they were present in the plot, and were important in some defining moments.

If you like New Adult, science, and great romance, then I would recommend Beginner's Guide: Love and Other Chemical Reactions.

K.J. Charles says

A research scientist tired of being nagged about her single status designs a boyfriend experiment to trial suitable candidates, but finds herself more interested in the arty cafe owner instead. Kaya is a fun character, evidently on the autistic spectrum, very self-protective because she's aware other people find her odd, and hiding her loneliness and discomfort behind her work. Meanwhile the sexy free-spirited Nero turns out to have his own insecurities about not being clever or high-achieving enough. The romance is therefore mostly impeded by failures of mutual comprehension or emotional honesty, as Kaya's deflections hit Nero's insecurities, but the author pulls it off without the reader screaming "JUST TALK" at the book, which is impressive.

It's a fun read with an endearing heroine and a lovely supporting cast, and I very much liked that the heroine isn't forced to change--certainly not to give up or slack off her work, but also that she acquires a circle of friends and a lover and a better relationship with her family by knowing and liking herself better.

I found the heroine's scientific focus in plot and the narrative style a bit overdone, but then, I have seen lots of readers in STEM rave about this book so maybe that's just my artsy bias showing. It is also, unfortunately, not well edited: the text is full of random tense changes, flipping from past to present and back in a single para, which is pretty jarring and at some points quite confusing. But still an enjoyable read about an unusual heroine and setting, which is immensely welcome.
