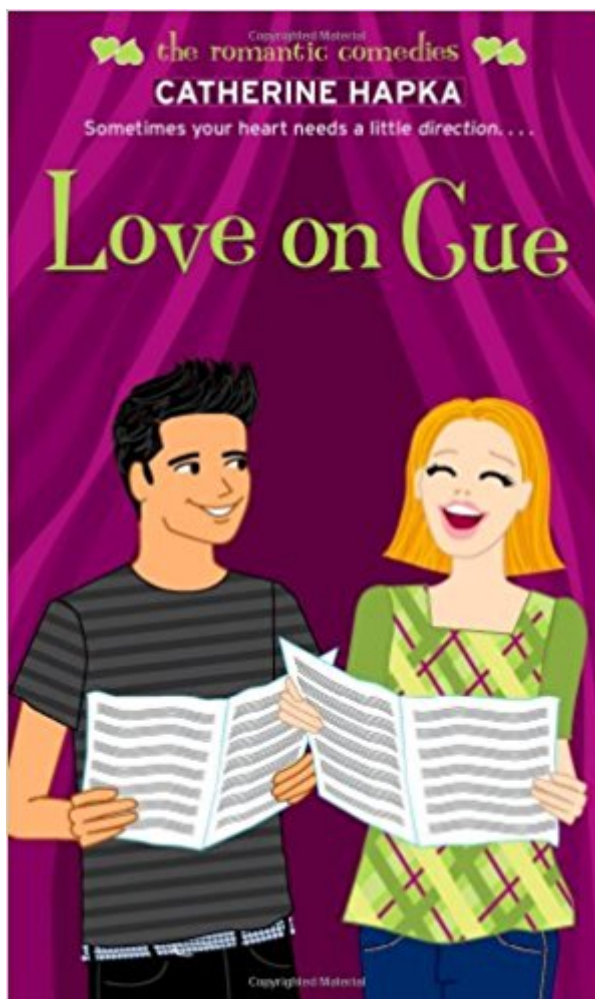


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Love On Cue (The Romantic Comedies)



Synopsis

When you have to sing your heart out, it's best to know how. Maggie Tannery is a true theater girl and a total shoo-in for the lead in this year's school production of *Romeo and Juliet*. She's seriously psyched because it looks like her crush, Derek, might be playing her Romeo both on- and offstage if all goes as planned. But when her school decides to perform a musical instead, Maggie catches a major case of stage fright because she can't sing! With her lead role in jeopardy, as well as her chance of winning her leading man, Maggie turns to the musically talented Nico to give her voice lessons. But their voices aren't the only things that seem to be harmonizing. As Maggie tries to break a leg and not her heart she wonders who the music man of her dreams really is.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Catherine Hapka has written more than 100 books for children and adults. She's written for series as a ghostwriter and has also authored original titles. She lives in Pennsylvania.

My Thoughts: I had this one sitting here for a while. I bought it when it first came out at the

beginning of summer but never got around to reading it yet. I read it in one sitting! I really enjoyed the concept of the play and how it got turned into a musical. We meet Maggie who gets to play opposite of her crush Derek. She wants to take this opportunity to get close to him, but when the heart is involved things don't always go as planned. Yes, it was predictable but its one you still want to read because we all need some romance in our life's, right? We meet all Maggie's friends and we realize how popular Derek is. Honestly, I didn't really like him too much from the beginning but had a crush on someone else. That is for me not to tell, and you to figure out. If you haven't had a chance to read this, its only around 200 pages so if your in between really thick books right now, give this one a shot!Overall: Cute! If you like plays or musical, its a must read for sure! Its also one of the cheaper books on so go buy it right now!Cover: I'm usually not a big fan of covers that aren't "real" people but I like this one. Its cute and stands out. I like the sheets in their hands too. Very cute.
(Reviewed by Princess Bookie)

As a self-professed "Drama Geek"(of sorts)& the fact that I enjoyed "High School Musical"(the first one anyway/ I was intrigued by this book's premise. Otherwise shy & unassuming;H.S Student Maggy Flannery shimes under the spotlight as a frequent performer in her schools theatrical productions.However when Romeo & Juliet,the theater departments original selection is cancelled due to the Drama instructors sudden(and unexpected retirement) a new teacher immediately takes his place and(surprise!)Shakespeare is scrapped in favor of "Cabaret" Which is too bad for Maggy because(another surprise!)she can't sing. She audtions however and gets(another surprise!) the lead opposite BMOC(aka major crush Derek.) Luckily,Nico,a music student/punk star wannabe who is helping with the show's music comes to Maggy's rescue. He starts by getting her to sing with her eyes open and yes(surprise again!) she actually CAN carry a tune. However,Maggy can only sing when Nico's there playing accompaniment. Does she need Nico for his encouragement or is it deeper than that? the book dosen't get much deeper than that,unfortunately. I enjoyed the kooky new teacher's strange acting exercises(some which are actually quite helpful which I found out from personal experience) and the fact that the show is "Cabaret"(which is one of my favorite musicals) and quite subversive (for HS anyway)something that is nver is explored. Just the typical "which boy do I like better?" plotline. Pre-teens or might enjoy this book(although it's aimed at teens) However,most any girl over the age of 14 will most likely be just mildly amused(or just bored) with this book. Not a bad book,but nothing special either..

I'm not a big fan of romances to be honest, but I try to read everything my daughter reads so we can

discuss it, and I got this for her because she's just at the age she's starting to enjoy romances. It's just as predictable as most romances are, you know a few pages in who the main character is going to wind up with at the end, but Maggie is charming. She has a very active imagination and is a bit self centered. In other words, for me, a completely believable teen, and one I'm sure my daughter will be able to empathize with, I could have at her age. I also love books for young people that mention great works, because sometimes seeing that in a light book you read for fun can inspire you to read something more in depth, and this book is about acting and referenced Romeo and Juliet and Cabaret. One of the things I really like about this book compared to say.. a popular teen romance that features vampires, is that romantic interest is someone who completely supports and encourages Maggie to stand on her own and accomplish things without being dependent on him. Would I read it for myself? No, but it was a lot of fun to read, and it's one I don't mind my daughter reading at all.

Normally Maggie Tannery is a shy and self-conscious high school girl, but she completely transforms when she is put on stage. When it's time for auditions for the school's annual production Maggie is sure to be a shoe in. Better yet, her long time crush Daniel might just be playing the lead along side her, and hopefully not just in the play if Maggie has things her way! Then the unthinkable happens. A new drama teacher comes into the picture and instead of performing Romeo and Juliet, she's thinking more along the lines of Cabaret, a musical. Maggie is devastated thinking she has no chance to make even a small role, as she can't really dance let alone sing. All hope is not lost though as she turns to Nico, one of the school's most musically talented students, to give her voice lessons. The thing is their voices aren't the only thing in sync and soon enough Maggie doesn't know which leading man is right for her. This is one of those super cute Simon Romantic Comedies that takes absolutely no time to read, but is still quite enjoyable. Yes, the story was very cliché and yes, there wasn't much character development, but I couldn't help but wish that I would be put in Maggie's position. While she wasn't all that developed, I would still say that Maggie was a good character. She was relatable in the fact that she was shy and didn't have the guts to talk to her crush and she had a hard time choosing which guy was right for her, which are both problems teen girls face. Catherine Hapka created a cute little book that is perfect for reading at the beach and is sure to pick you up when you're feeling a little bit down.

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