



Romiette and Julio

By Sharon M. Draper

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*Do you feel the soul of another calling to
you? Do you know in your heart that your
destiny and his were meant to merge In
the cosmos? We can help you find him.*

When Romiette Cappelle and her best friend, Destiny, decide to order The Scientific Soul Mate System from the back of *Heavy Hunks* magazine, they're not sure what they're getting into. But Destiny, a self-proclaimed psychic, assures Romi that for \$44.99 plus shipping and handling, it's the only way they're ever going to find out who their soul mates really are. If nothing else, maybe Romi will get some insight into that recurring dream she's been having about fire and water.

But they never expect that the scented candle and tube of dream ointment will live up to their promises and merge Romiette's destiny with that of Julio Montague, a boy she's just met in the "cosmos" of an Internet chat room. It turns out they go to the same high school, not to mention having almost the same names as Shakespeare's famous lovers! Sweet-scented dreams of Julio have almost overtaken Romi's nightmares...

...when suddenly they return, but this time in real life. It seems the Devildogs, a local gang, violently oppose the relationship of Romiette and Julio. Soon they find themselves haunted by the purple-clad shadows of the gang, and the fire and water of Romiette's dream merge in ways more terrifying -- and ultimately more affirming -- than even Destiny could have foreseen.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 6-10-A contemporary retelling of the Romeo and Juliet story with a happy, upbeat ending. Sixteen-year-old Julio Montague's parents have moved their family to Cincinnati, OH, in order to get their son out of his gang-ridden high school in Corpus Christi, TX. Romiette Cappelle, also 16, is the daughter of successful African-American parents and the granddaughter of college professors. When these two young people, both from proud heritages, begin a romance, they must deal not only with their parents' prejudices but also with the threats of a local gang called The Family. At times, Romiette and Julio effectively parallels and contemporizes the original story. The young couple meet, not at the Capulets' feast, but in an Internet chat room. Julio's friend, Ben Olsen (read Benvolio), who looks like a punk rocker, has an optimistic and irreverent attitude that balances Julio's passion and volatility. At other times, the allusions to the play are obvious and heavy-handed. Nonetheless, this novel is more than simply a carefully plotted teenage romance. Draper gives a realistic portrayal of the interactions among high school students as well as their relationships with their parents. The book also examines how gangs can gain power and take control. All of the characters have unique voices and the writing style shifts according to the action. Romiette and Julio would be a wonderful curriculum tie-in book, but it also stands alone as a first-rate novel about contemporary teens.

Jane Halsall, McHenry Public Library District, IL

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From Booklist

When Romiette Capelle, aka Afroqueen, and Julio Montague, aka Spanishlover, meet in an Internet chat room, neither of them has any idea they both go to the same Cincinnati high school. Afroqueen is from a prominent African American family; Spanishlover is Hispanic and the new kid in town. When Romiette and Julio meet in person, they know they are fated to be together. In keeping with their Shakespearean counterparts, they are thwarted in love: a local gang, the Devildogs, is set on keeping Romiette away from the "foreigner." The dialogue (and there's lots of it) is jarring and stilted, and Romiette's father and some peripheral adult characters are overdone. But Draper has created Julio's parents and Romiette's mother with sensitivity and has given readers a pair of intriguing, unusual protagonists with the sort of real thoughts and feelings that will make this interracial story satisfying despite its stylistic problems. *Holly Koelling*

From Kirkus Reviews

A tale of forbidden love with intentional references to Shakespeare's play, perhaps especially to its West Side Story incarnation, with a similar focus on issues of race and gangs. Julio Montague, a recent Texas transplant to Cincinnati, quickly falls for ``Afroqueen'' during cyber-chats on the Internet. He soon discovers his soulmate is African-American Romiette Cappelle, who coincidentally attends his high school. The two are destined to meet and fall in love, despite warnings from the local gang who strongly disapproves of their romance. After the two central players ignore several warnings, gun-wielding gang leaders kidnap them, bind them, and cast them adrift in a boat that is struck by lightning, nearly drowning them (and straining credibility). The parallels to Shakespeare's play are often self-conscious and belabored, drawn at odd moments in the story. Still, a straightforward, uncluttered narrative will hook readers into the well-paced plot and sympathetic characters; loose ends are tied more neatly than a package, prettying up the ending by putting a happily-ever-after spin on the lovers' fates. (Fiction. 12-14) -- *Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ricardo Donaldson:

The book Romiette and Julio make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You can utilize to make your capable much more increase. Book can being your best friend when you getting anxiety or having big problem with the subject. If you can make examining a book Romiette and Julio to be your habit, you can get considerably more advantages, like add your capable, increase your knowledge about a number of or all subjects. It is possible to know everything if you like wide open and read a reserve Romiette and Julio. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or other people. So , how do you think about this publication?

Paul Avila:

What do you concerning book? It is not important together with you? Or just adding material when you want something to explain what yours problem? How about your time? Or are you busy particular person? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And you have free time? What did you do? Every person has many questions above. They need to answer that question because just their can do which. It said that about publication. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is suitable. Because start from on pre-school until university need this particular Romiette and Julio to read.

Allen Lutz:

The reason? Because this Romiette and Julio is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will surprise you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who write the book in such awesome way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book have got such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking means. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I were you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

Philip Nguyen:

This Romiette and Julio is great publication for you because the content that is certainly full of information for you who always deal with world and have to make decision every minute. This specific book reveal it details accurately using great organize word or we can point out no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read the item hurriedly you can have whole information in it. Doesn't mean it only provides you with straight forward sentences but challenging core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having Romiette and Julio in your hand like getting the world in your arm, details in it is not ridiculous one. We can say that no guide that offer you world throughout ten or fifteen moment right but this reserve already do that. So , this is good reading book. Heya Mr. and Mrs. hectic do you still doubt that will?

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