

**Book Title:** Love & Gelato

**Book Author:** Jenna Evans Welch

**Reviewed By:** Vyshnavi Viju, 14

**Star Teen Book Reviewer Of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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Love & Gelato by Jenna Evans Welch revolves around the life of Carolina Emerson. The book starts out with her mother dying of cancer and then she is forced to go live her father (that she hadn't even known existed for the past sixteen years) as her mother's dying wish. This is where everything happens quickly. Her father is from South Carolina but lives in Italy. Carolina doesn't want anything to do with Italy. She is still heart broken from her mother's death. Her best friend is half a world away from her. She has no idea who her father really is or that he lived in a cemetery for that matter. She even convinces herself that she just has to get through the summer before she can return home. It is in the middle of all these problems that she finds her mother's journal. All of a sudden, her best friend can wait and her mother's death is much more manageable. She is now partying in ghost houses while exploring art museums and hidden bakeries with the charming Lorenzo Ferrar. She also finds a secret about herself along the way that changes everything she knew; she discovers more than she actually wanted too.

I absolutely loved this book. It was such an amazing read that it became my number one favorite book in less than ten minutes. The voice of the narrator was just enthralling. I found quickly that she was not just relatable but also funny and quirky. I have always been a sucker for romantic books that takes place in romantic places but this was way more than I expected. It was a mystery novel with a lot of romance combined with travel and awesome food. It couldn't get better than this. The story was heartfelt for me. The mother's journal was saddening in the end but that was what made it awesome. It felt like a story inside a story. I could make out how the narrator felt each time she read the journal. She was seeing a side of her mother that she didn't even know existed. I found that part beautiful because she was finally getting closer to her mother (in a way). I have to give it up to her father though. He was literally one of the best parents I have ever met. He made sure that she knew that he loved her but he didn't force her to do anything that she didn't want to. He trusted her decisions. He was even so protective about her when someone made comments about her when she went running. I couldn't help but fall in love with him. I more than anything loved the moments she shared with Lorenzo. Their conversations often made me want to burst out laughing (don't recommend reading it in front of the public). He was an amazing friend to her. He is literally one of the best things that happened in this book. I am now going to get to the rest of the things that the author did awesome writing this book. I loved the way she described Italy. It is magnificent because I felt like I was actually there making my way through the Duomo or looking at the Rape Of The Sabine Women. I felt every emotion that was going through Carolina. I felt the joy and excitement in seeing all these new places. I felt her embarrassment in making common pronunciation and other foreigner mistakes that happens to the best of us. I have to give it up to the author more for her mystery though. I would guess something from all the clues given and I would be so confident that I am right but no. I wouldn't even be close. It kept me guessing until the last page. It was so exciting. There were also so many twists that I would never have anticipated. I am more than impressed there. I read this book at least three times. It was that good. I would genuinely recommend it.

I barely managed to find anything bad about it. It was super duper good but if I had to, then there were a few minor areas where the author could have made the book a little more interesting. I thought that the book would have been better if it was spaced out during the summer rather than it all happening in a few days. I felt like the number of things that occurred in one day was a whole lot but that is probably just me. I also felt like the journal could have been finished much quicker. It took way too long in my opinion but I guess that is where the entire story comes from. I don't think there would have been a story at all if the journal was finished in like one day. I just felt like reading the entire journal would have made a lot of things obvious right from the start. Again. The book was fast paced. The entire book takes place in less than a week. It is not enough time to develop friendships in real life but the book doesn't make any relationships seem awkward or forced in any way so I guess it worked out. I thought the positives outweighed the negatives.

I felt like the book was aimed at young adults. I noticed that the book was an appropriate book for teenagers as well. It is not a deeply insightful or themed book in any way. It is just supposed to be a fun summer read but the writing was crispy and strong so it is hard not to like the book. I think the book would make a great gift to someone who enjoys reading. It took me a short amount of time to fall head over heels in love with this read. I thought this to be one of the best books I have ever read this year. I would highly encourage anyone to try reading this book.

**Recommended Titles:**

- 1) Love & Luck By Jenna Evans Welch
- 2) We Were Liars By E. Lockhart
- 3) The Sun Is Also A Star By Nicola Yoon
- 4) I Will Give You The Sun By Jandy Nelson
- 5) Anna & The French Kiss By Stephanie Perkins