



Perfect Chemistry (A Perfect Chemistry Novel)

By Simone Elkeles

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When Brittany Ellis walks into chemistry class on the first day of senior year, she has no clue that her carefully created "perfect" life is about to unravel before her eyes. She's forced to be lab partners with Alex Fuentes, a gang member from the other side of town, and he is about to threaten everything she's worked so hard for—her flawless reputation, her relationship with her boyfriend, and the secret that her home life is anything but perfect. Alex is a bad boy and he knows it. So when he makes a bet with his friends to lure Brittany into his life, he thinks nothing of it. But soon Alex realizes Brittany is a real person with real problems, and suddenly the bet he made in arrogance turns into something much more. In a passionate story about looking beneath the surface, Simone Elkeles breaks through the stereotypes and barriers that threaten to keep Brittany and Alex apart.

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Perfect Chemistry (A Perfect Chemistry Novel) By Simone Elkeles Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 10 Up—Told in alternating narratives, *Perfect Chemistry* portrays a romance between two unlikely lab partners. Brittany is her Chicago high school's "golden girl" but few of her friends know that her parents are totally dysfunctional and that she is highly invested in caring for her physically and mentally disabled older sister. Alex is a member of the Latino Blood, but he wishes he could leave gang life and pursue a college career. The plot thickens as Alex accepts a bet from a friend that he cannot bed Brittany by Thanksgiving. Smoldering doesn't quite do justice to the romantic banter that sparks between them. As the story unfolds, Alex is incarcerated and later hospitalized. Raw language and Spanish phrases that Anglo readers might feel obligated to investigate further are peppered throughout. The pace picks up too quickly at the end, leaving readers wondering if they missed something as time that has previously been marked day by day begins to clip along in five-month increments. Overall though, this is a solid romance that's suitable for reluctant readers.—*Leah Krippner, Harlem High School, Machesney Park, IL*

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From [Booklist](#)

Tough guy Alex is primarily known by his classmates as a dangerous member of the Latino Bloods gang. He's not exactly thrilled when Brittany Ellis, the school's seemingly perfect beauty queen, is assigned as his lab partner—and the feeling is more than mutual. But Alex's bravado works against him when he impulsively accepts a bet that he can get Brittany in the sack. The romance that follows will not surprise any reader, yet Elkeles gives it heart by constantly switching point of view from Alex to Brittany to provide dual running commentaries on their minute-by-minute insecurities and urges. Brittany's controlling parents and sister with cerebral palsy are well drawn, but it is Elkeles' rendition of Alex and his life that is particularly vivid. Sprinkling his speech with Spanish, his gruff but tender interactions with his family and friends feel completely genuine. An idealized epilogue drains away some of the book's realism, but if the "romance" angle isn't pushed too hard, this is a novel that could be embraced by male and female readers in equal measure. Grades 9-12. --Daniel Kraus

Review

"Smoldering doesn't quite do justice to the romantic banter." ?*School Library Journal on Perfect Chemistry*

"Teens with a taste for romance will eat this up like ice cream on a hot day." ?*Bulletin for the Center of Children's Books on Perfect Chemistry*

"Elkeles once again delivers a steamy page-turner bound to make teens swoon." ?*School Library Journal on Rules of Attraction*

"Engaging characters, two of whom share a love that cannot be denied, along with more than a few humorous moments." ?*VOYA on Rules of Attraction*

"Fans of the series and other females will gobble up this exciting, suspenseful novel." ?*VOYA on Chain Reaction*

"Elkeles pens plenty of tasteful, hot scenes . . . that keep the pages turning." ?*Kirkus Reviews on Perfect Chemistry*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Catherine Walters:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book called Perfect Chemistry (A Perfect Chemistry Novel)? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You know beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have some other opinion?

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