



# The First Kiss Hypothesis

*Christina Mandelski*

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Nora Reid believes scientific laws control everything, even love. With her grandparents' epic first kiss story cemented in her brain, Nora develops a hypothesis she's determined to prove: for each person in the world, there is exactly one other person, and at first kiss, they'll experience an immediate and intense reaction.

But after four years of zero-reaction kisses, she comes up with a new theory: maybe that pesky crush on her stunningly hot best friend Eli Costas is skewing her results.

She needs to get rid of him, and fast.

Eli Costas is an injury-prone lacrosse star with a problem—the one chance he had at winning over the girl next door resulted in the most epically sucktastic first kiss ever. And now she's...trying to get rid of him? Hell no. It's time to disprove her theory and show her *exactly* what she's missing.

Game. On.

**Disclaimer: This book contains a stunningly hot lacrosse player who isn't above playing dirty to win over the stubborn girl-next-door of his dreams.**

## The First Kiss Hypothesis Details

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Author : Christina Mandelski

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# **From Reader Review The First Kiss Hypothesis for online ebook**

## **Tammy says**

Fun read with a lot of pie. Nora and Eli are very cute together and have been friends as well as neighbors since they were little. Nora is trying to find the right guy by kissing them all and seeing if the earth moves. She had tried with Eli when they were younger but it was a miss due to a ill-timed kiss and Coke. Their relationship has a pretty good base with them helping each other with life but it hits a bump when they each realize that they want to be more than friends. Of course, they just can't come out and say that to each other. I really enjoyed this one the most from Eli's POV. His relationship with his team and his brother was a plus for me. Nora was a bit stiff with her science for me and her fear of driving drove me nuts. If she was so science-y she would have figured out what happened to make her afraid of driving was just something that happened. This would have been a five if I had liked Nora a bit more. Received an ARC for which I voluntarily provided an honest review.

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## **Yoda says**

I'm continuing my "read everything and warn people if it sucks" mission. This one definitely did. I hate characters that can't realize things on their own until the very last page. Writing was okay, but I don't think it was edited(well).

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## **Erica Chilson says**

### **I received a copy of this title to read and review for Wicked Reads**

5 Stars

Young Adult age-range: 13+ due to language. Kissing.

Nora's grandparents met and shared an earth-shattering kiss, and they spent the next 40+ years living happily ever after. As the child of divorce, Nora is holding onto her dementia-addled grandmother's inspiring story of love, wanting a lifetime of what her grandparents had, never what her parents did/have with other people. This has skewed Nora, missing what is being offered by her next door neighbor best friend, even if she's always had a crush on the boy.

At age thirteen, Nora and Eli shared a gross kiss, where no sparks flew, and she's held it against him ever since. The scientist-in-the-making doesn't realize sexual chemistry and romantic connection aren't scientific experiments. There's also the fact that at thirteen, you can't expect sparks to fly when your hormones have just started to do their business in the developing body.

Eli has always had a crush on Nora, but she won't give him a chance after that horrendous kiss where he just pounded a Coke and needed to burp. The poor guy spends the entirety of the novel chasing after Nora, trying to get her to see the truth.

To be honest, Nora's quest for kisses becomes a bit tedious and frustrating, for Eli but also the reader. The character development is where this novel shined. The characters speak and act as their age group, they have fears and worries that match their ages as well. Nora and Eli are both concerned with Nora's grandmother, with leaving/staying behind with their families when it comes to college. Where to go to college and what to study...

Nora and her driver's licence: I feel as if the author plucked that out of my head. I struggled with anxiety, perfectly able to drive, and never got my license. I'm 39, and the thought of driving gives me a visceral reaction, so I connected with Nora's character on this front. Eli stating he'd drive Nora around for the rest of her life had me laughing out loud for real.

Recommended to adults and young adults alike, something for everyone to connect with emotionally.

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## **Rê says**

### **3.5 “Science, Friendship and Love” Stars**

ARC via NetGalley

Thank you, Entangled Teen (Crush)!!

I've been on a BFF-to-more trope vibe lately, and this is probably the one with one of the most unique premise I've read lately. That's because of Nora Reid's obsession with the first kiss hypothesis and finding true love.

While with the BFF trope we normally have characters fighting their attraction to each other because they're afraid to lose their friendship, here we have Nora refusing to move her hot best friend Eli past friend-zone because their first kiss back when they were eight years old didn't make her heart stop and the earth move under her feet. Nora seriously believes that for each person in the world there's only one other person and that they're able to see they're soul mates from their first kiss. Since her first kiss with Eli was too wet and not all that life-changing, she ruled him out as her soul mate, even though she still has a huge crush on him.

Eli, on the other hand, is tired of seeing Nora test her theory and ignore him as a viable candidate to love of her life. He then decides to make a move and prove Nora's theory wrong.

Despite the whole theory being a little out there, it works in this context because of Nora's relationship with her grandmother and the disease that is slowly taking her grandmother away. Implausible as it was, it felt like a link between Nora and her grandmother, and it worked well to build tension between Nora and Eli. And as I said before, it served its purpose as a different and fresh reason for the best friends to hold back on moving into romantic zone.

The chemistry between Nora and Eli was pretty great, and I also appreciated that Eli had an arc aside from the romance, even though the solution to his problem felt a little too easy.

Overall, the romance worked really well, and this turned out to be another cute read.

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## **Tara (Spinatale Reviews) says**

This is Nora's hypothesis about love: "For each person in the world, there is exactly one other person, and at first kiss, they'll experience an immediate and intense reaction."

Nora crossed Eli, her best friend, off her possibilities list in middle school after a horrible first kiss that definitely did not create the reaction she's looking for. Now if only she could get rid of her feelings for him... However, as Nora concocts a scheme to get over Eli Costas once and for all, he comes up with a plan to disprove her hypothesis and to make her fall for him.

The First Kiss Hypothesis was an absolutely adorable YA contemporary romance that was an utter delight to read. I loved the dynamic between Nora and Eli, I actually laughed out loud a few times. The alternative viewpoints definitely worked, I really enjoyed seeing how both their schemes played out from both points of view. I felt the strength of their friendship and loved the flashbacks to when they were younger. This book also dealt with a few deeper issues. I was particularly touched by Nora's relationship with her grandmother. Also, Ari, Eli's younger brother, was autistic. The author did an excellent job of depicting him respectfully while not shying away from showing how difficult his condition had been on his family.

This one was quick, light read that left me smiling. If you're a fan of best friends to more stories, The First Kiss Hypothesis is definitely your book. I really enjoyed this one and I'll probably read it again in the future.

\*Disclaimer: I received this book for free from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

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## **lacy [a ravenclaw library] says**

*A special thank you goes out to Entangled Teen publishing for allowing me to read this early. All thoughts and opinions are my own.*

What a fun contemporary! Although, contemporaries are usually always fun. There were so many positives in this book, it made my heart happy. Even though the MCs drove me a bit nuts at times with their really irritating teenage thought processes. But hey, teenagers of all ages drive me nuts. I think it's because I'm old.

Like I said, this book has a lot of positives. One them is that Nora is huge into science and is all about advocacy for a variety of different things, like autism and tortoises. Which is amazing! So many girls don't pursue science because it's not "girly" or considered an appropriate career for women. So major shout out to the author, Christine Mandelski, for showing that girls can be into science and it's completely okay. The side character, Abby, was also involved in science, which is another added bonus.

There was also really good representation of anxiety while driving. I know that it's a bit of a minor thing but driving can be so anxiety inducing. I didn't get my license until I was 18 years old because I was utterly terrified of driving. What Nora experiences while driving is a very real fear and I completely understand it.

The concept of the plot was very interesting. Nora is trying to find the right boy for her by kissing them and

get hit with that spark, like her grandparents had. She has kissed a ton of guys and it made her a bit of social outcast at school, which is sad. But Nora is a scientist and is determined to get an answer to hypothesis.

Eli was the real star of the show. His POV was hilarious. He sounded like such a typical guy and it made me laugh! He knew when he was being a horrible person and (eventually) owned up to it. Plus, I love how much he loves his brother, Ari, who is on the spectrum.

Overall, this was a great read. Nora and Eli were hilarious, with Eli stealing the show. The concept, I think, was original and it was done very well. There was love and acceptance for girls involved in science and education on those on the autism spectrum. I couldn't be more pleased with this book.

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## **Lenore Kosinski says**

<https://celebrityreaders.wordpress.co...>

3.5 stars -- I received a free copy through NetGalley in exchange for an honest and unbiased review/opinion.

Well that was an up and down ride!! It started off really strong, I absolutely adored the author's voice in this one. There was a bit of sassiness and snark that was delightful. I spent time both loving and hating BOTH characters, but in this case (unlike my previous read), I'm happy to say they redeemed themselves and showed those two words I love in characters: GROWTH AND CHANGE!

Nora was an intriguing, if frustrating, heroine! It's funny, b/c at first I thought she was going to be really snarky, but that didn't really last. I felt for the damage she sustained from her divorced parents, and their rather toxic relationship. I also liked that it wasn't something we saw that much (as we never met the father), but you could see the damage in so many subtle little ways...not the least of which was her ridiculous hypothesis. As a reader, I found it really hard to watch her hang onto her theory with such a tightfisted grip. But I guess she really wanted to believe she could avoid her mother's mistake. I sometimes think the smartest people can just not see the most obvious things sometimes. Hence the frustrating part of Nora. She also had a bit of high school damage. By holding on to this theory, and testing it out on all the boys, she'd kind of alienated herself from many of her fellow students...and my heart broke for her trying to navigate that.

Eli was just as intriguing, and honest to god, just as frustrating...but in a completely different way. I had completely different expectations for this story, and particularly for Eli. I honestly thought he was always in love with her, and figured this was his chance. But it's not quite that. Quite frankly, that confused and frustrated me. If he just knew he loved her and was finally making his move, I'd have been immediately on board (I love those stories). But he was so confusing!! And confused! He wanted to get another chance with Nora and he wanted to prove her hypothesis wrong using himself as an example, but he kept initially framing it as though that was all he wanted...like for her own good, so she wouldn't be lonely. But dude, that's kind of dickish. And so I was confused how that was going to go. And worried. But I'll get back to that in a moment. I was also startled by his personality and attitude sometimes. I expected a more laidback sweet guy, and he wasn't quite that. Honestly, he actually felt like a really realistic depiction of a teenage guy. He had all this anger bottled up sometimes...which from what I understand from my husband is a common teenage boy problem, testosterone and all. He didn't always appreciate his parents. He wasn't the most tactful with Nora. It was odd. And yet I still liked him. He still had these great moments. And I guess I kind of liked that he was a bit oblivious to his own feelings, at least it was different.

I was honestly REALLY concerned when I got to what I thought was the climax. Eli behaved VERY BADLY. Like, a total jerky douchebag. Like, yelling and sneering. I was ready to wash my hands of the story, I didn't think it could turn around. But there was more story left than I had anticipated. And you know what? To my GREAT surprise, I actually appreciated how the story played out afterwards. I'm still not super impressed with how Eli handled that particular moment, but I actually felt like I saw him go through all the emotions after that. I saw him grow up a bit. I saw him make realizations. And Nora too! I was freaking ecstatic with the final scene! Like it was actually everything I was wanting! I was shocked! I'm not saying everyone will be happy with it...just like I'm not saying everyone will have as big a problem with the climax. But it worked for ME.

As an aside, can I say that I really liked a lot of the secondary characters?? The parents were actually pretty great. Flawed, but great. Eli's friend, Koviak, was cooler than I was expecting... And even Tex was an OK character. Abby was meh though. BUT the secondary character star for me was Eli's little brother (who is on the autism spectrum). Both Eli and Nora showed their best selves with Ari. And he was just kind of delightful.

So yeah. I thought this was going to be a 3 star. But I'm even rounding up! Just shows how important a great ending is.

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## **Angelica says**

### ***Rating: 2.5***

When it comes down to it, this book was a fairly decent book. I got from it exactly what I expected from this type of YA contemporary romance novel. There was nothing really new added to the table here and that would have been fine by me, it's just that a lot of the YA contemporary tropes it had have always been a bit problematic for me.

This is about Nora, a girl who is determined to find her one true love, which she thinks will be revealed to her by the magic of their first kiss. Basically, she's kissed a lot of guys in the search for love and has never kissed more than one guy twice.

It's also about her best friend, Eli, whom Nora kissed once in the 8th grade and refuses to kiss again, determining him to not be her true love due to their failed first and only kiss. All of this despite the fact that Eli is deeply in love with her, and the fact that Nora is secretly in love with him as well.

Really, so many problems would have been solved had Nora been a little less stubborn and had Eli been a little more forward.

But alas.

A major trope in fiction is the best friend who is secretly in love with the main character. I personally have always really liked that trope. My problem is when the best friend starts to feel possessive of the person they love as if they were owed that person's devotion. And there was a little of that going on in this book with Eli actually thinking about hurting a guy who was hitting on Nora, and I just wasn't feeling it. I never think that this is cute in books.

Another thing, this one more annoying than offensive, is Nora and her refusal to see reason. She is basing her first kiss hypothesis on her grandparents who kissed only once before falling in love and getting married like two weeks later. She then refuses to kiss anyone more than once because obviously, in science, if an experiment works once then it must be a law of the workings of the universe. Had she just tried for a second kiss so many things could have been avoided.

Overall, this was a cute, if somewhat cliché, contemporary novel, in the vein of all cute, cliché, contemporary novels. If you aren't trying anything to blow your mind, and are just looking for a quick read, then go for it. If not, well, then it might be best to skip over this one in my opinion.

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### **Thamy says**

Honest review based on an ARC provided by Netgalley. Many thanks to the publisher for this opportunity.

This is another cute YA novel with the standard one could expected from Entangled Crush. I'll never say enough how much I live for their releases. I always feel sad when I can't pick more to review but I always make sure to find room at least one. I don't regret picking this one up.

Nora had a hypothesis she's formed based on the story of how her grandmother knew her grandfather would be the person with whom she's live happily for forty years. It's all about the first kiss; you just know it if that person is just a crush doomed to disappointment like her parents, or if he's the right one. In practice, she has kissed almost every boy at school and obtained no results. She suspects her perception has been altered to along-lasting crush over her best friend Eli Costas. She doesn't know it but now Eli is determined to disprove her theory.

This was fun, cute. A delight to read! I had just finished Love, Life and the List, which is also about best friends falling in love so I was afraid it could be a bad idea but I could only read it now so I had to risk it. Yes, this book passed.

Of course, a lot of the story is the expected cliché. But as stubborn as Nora was about her theory, her adventures were quite fun. I kept cheering for things to work out. I appreciated the subtle discussions on choosing universities, overcoming fears, seeking for your parents' approval. They were well mixed into the story and brought up good advices for the teenage readers.

Eli didn't charm me much, and I thought the climax was a little silly—why are most YA writers so lazy with that? However, all that wasn't enough to spoil my guilt pleasure. Christina Mandelski is a name to watch for. So if you want some upbeat YA contemporary romance, it's a good pick for this Fall.

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### **Samantha (WLABB) says**

Friends-to-more romance and lots of science nerdy talk - I was bound to love it! This one was really sweet and cute and totally hit the spot, although it left me wanting some pie.



When I saw a science term in the title, I jumped at the opportunity to read this book, and I was really glad I did, because this one gave me miles of smiles.

- Pro: First and foremost, this was a friends-to-more story, and I love those.

- Pro: These two had soooooo much history, ten years worth, to be exact, and Mandelski gifted us with lovely flashbacks that were meaningfully woven into the story.

- Pro: Of course I liked Nora. Any girl that in love with science will always rate high on my list.

- Pro: I was immediately cheering for Eli to succeed in his plot to win Nora's heart and get out of the friend zone. He committed some very sweet and adorable acts that had some swoon. How could I not want him to get the girl?

- Pro: Eli's friend, Koviak, actually grew on me. At first, I thought he was a total meathead, but as I saw him interact with Eli more, I realized he had a little depth, and he was a really good friend to Eli too.

- Con: I cannot say the same for Nora's friend, Abby. She sort of disappointed me.

- Pro: The "Hail Mary" plan was one of my favorite parts. It was classic and rom-com worthy. I think I almost squealed, I enjoyed it so much.

- Pro: There were a lot of great family moments. Between Nora's grandma, Eli's adorable little brother, their moms, and Eli's dad, who sort of reminded me a little of my own, I felt like Nora and Eli were in good hands with such an awesome support system.

- Pro: I am always elated to see an epilogue, but this one really made me happy. I loved the symbolic thing they did together, and that's all I am saying, because it was so sweet.

- Pro: Did I mention what a large role pie plays in this story? Yes, because "PFE - pie fixes everything".

Overall: An adorable and sweet friends-to-more story, filled with sports, science, memories, and lots of pie.

\*I would like to thank the publisher for the review copy of this book.

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## **Sarah says**

(I received an advance copy of this book for free. Thanks to Entangled Publishing, LLC and NetGalley.)

*“A kiss with chemistry is different from a kiss without chemistry. Period.”*

This was a YA contemporary romance story, about a girl with a scientific theory about first kisses.

I liked Nora and Eli, and I liked how relaxed they were around each other. It was also nice the way that Eli always drove Nora to school after she broke someone's leg during drivers ed.

The storyline in this was about Nora having a scientific theory, that when you met the right person your first kiss would be wonderful. Unfortunately, she had kissed Eli when she was younger, and had thus written him off as a possible boyfriend because the first kiss wasn't great. It was sweet how she tried to ignore her feelings for Eli though, and it was nice that Eli secretly felt the same way about her and wanted to disprove her hypothesis. That second first kiss was a long time coming though.

The ending to this was a happily ever after, and it was nice that we got to see what happened to Nora and Eli after high school finished.

6.5 out of 10

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### **Melissa (YA Book Shelf) says**

Super cute and I loved that it was a sports romance with lacrosse (a sport invented in Canada), which is not something super common. I wanted these best friends to get together something fierce and loved the way everything turned out for each of them.

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### **Alicia says**

As my first book ever from Christina Mandelski, I would have to say that this won't be my last. I just love friends-to-lovers stories. Absolutely love them. And that they're neighbours is even better.

Nora and Eli have been best friends ever since Nora moved in next door when they were eight. Nora's grandmother told her a story about how when she and Nora's grandfather kissed for the first time, the earth shook etc and they knew right then that they were meant to be together. Nora has been trying to find that one person to have this experience with. When she kissed Eli when they were both thirteen, it didn't go so well. So why is she still crushing on him hard?

I have to admit. There was so much frustration with Nora and her scientific testing. How she wouldn't give Eli another chance despite her attraction to him. Thank God Eli was determined and wouldn't give up on getting his second chance. There were a few twists in here that I wasn't expecting and I did not want to stop reading because I just had to know how it all ended. I was really happy with the ending. Swoon!!

I received an advanced copy of this book and VOLUNTARILY decided to review it

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### **books are love says**

Received in exchange for a honest review.

Love Eli. Poor dude was friend zoned due to a silly hypothesis and kiss in like 7th or 8th grade.. he was a sweet kind guy just trying to find himself and resigned to feel like he was not much. I think this was because he felt that is how his parents saw him. He was smart but didn't really apply himself. He was hopeless in

love with his next door neighbor. A girl he respects and trusts. A girl he believed in and wanted by his side no matter what.

Nora though friend zoned him due to a story from her grandma and her parents acrimonious divorce. Nora believes in what she calls her first kiss hypothesis. She believes that one kiss will be the telltale sign to the one you are meant to be with. This hasn't exactly given her a warm and fuzzy reputation. Only one person knows of her hypothesis and it kills him inside. Nora even hurts him because of this silly hypothesis and in turn he lashes out at her.

Nora is a smart but dumb cookie. She is book smart but not people smart. She is inflexible in her beliefs and hides things from others. The secret she kept was the first to hurt Eli but also get him to go on a mission to get Nora to see her hypothesis was wrong and give him another chance. Nora though was stubborn even when her feelings were confusing her. She stuck to her guns and almost loses her best friend in the process.

The story is fun and light. Eli and his brother will have you from the beginning. They are both just to adorable. Eli is so kind and just adorable. He has so much going on that no one really sees. His POV you will love. Nora takes time to grow on you. She is very analytical and stubborn. She plays with Eli's emotions a little too much and when he lashes out she reacts and finally shows him emotion. Nora needed to grow up and see what she had in front of her. Eli was the best friend and guy for her and she came close to letting this go due to her stubbornness.

A truly fun light hearted sweet romance with a great guy and a girl who needed to grow and admit she was wrong. A story with fun times, sweet moments and a lot of introspection on both characters but especially Eli as he tries to get Nora to be more than a friend and at the same time figure out his life.

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## **D.M. says**

Hypothesis: "For each person in the world, there is exactly one other person who, at first kiss, causes an immediate and intense reaction."

Nora believes this Hypothesis and is trying to find her first kisses. Her methods include charity Kissing booths and plenty of first dates. Her grandmother found her soulmate after one kiss and married 2 weeks later. Nora wants her experience.

Eli is trying to prove the hypothesis is untrue. Nora and Eli have already shared their first kiss and it wasn't magic. Nora sprang it on him and he wasn't ready. It was awkward and a total disaster for their relationship. Luckily they got over it and now are back to being best friends. I've read a lot of best friend romance books lately and I liked the fact this one was a little different. Both characters already know they like the other they just need to find the right page.

Nora wants to be a scientist and is a believer in proven theories. She studies hard and spends her free time with Eli. She dates, but unsuccessful thanks to her hypothesis. It has made her distance from other students at her school. She wants to get over her crush on Eli, but she needs his help first.

Eli has had enough of Nora's one and done. He intends to show her she may miss out on true love if she doesn't give up her science project. With some intense driving, some delicious pie and a cute younger brother- The first kiss hypothesis is a sweet original story.

4 Stars out of 5. \*I received an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review as part of the Chapter by Chapter blog tour\*

My blog tour date is 7th November 2017.

<http://chaptersthroughlife.blogspot.c...>

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