



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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Romiette and Julio By Sharon M. Draper Bibliography

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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:

Sheila Lefevre:

As people who live in the modest era should be upgrade about what going on or information even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era which can be always change and advance. Some of you maybe will update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to anyone is you don't know which one you should start with. This Romiette and Julio is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Claudia Fox:

Are you kind of stressful person, only have 10 or 15 minute in your time to upgrading your mind ability or thinking skill possibly analytical thinking? Then you are receiving problem with the book as compared to can satisfy your short space of time to read it because pretty much everything time you only find publication that need more time to be examine. Romiette and Julio can be your answer given it can be read by you actually who have those short time problems.

Franklin Richter:

This Romiette and Julio is fresh way for you who has intense curiosity to look for some information mainly because it relief your hunger details. Getting deeper you into it getting knowledge more you know or you who still having bit of digest in reading this Romiette and Julio can be the light food for yourself because the information inside that book is easy to get through anyone. These books develop itself in the form and that is reachable by anyone, that's why I mean in the e-book contact form. People who think that in book form make them feel sleepy even dizzy this book is the answer. So there is absolutely no in reading a book especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for an individual. So , don't miss this! Just read this e-book type for your better life as well as knowledge.

John Hayes:

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