



***Bloom* by Kevin Panetta, Savanna Ganucheau (Illustrated by)**

First Second, Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2019

ISBN: 9781250196910 (Hardcover), 9781626726413 (Trade Paperback)

*Age Range: 14-18 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 8+ (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Now that high school is over, Ari is dying to move to the big city with his ultra-hip band—if he can just persuade his dad to let him quit his job at their struggling family bakery. Though he loved working there as a kid, Ari cannot fathom a life wasting away over rising dough and hot ovens. But while interviewing candidates for his replacement, Ari meets Hector, an easygoing guy who loves baking as much as Ari wants to escape it. As they become closer over batches of bread, love is ready to bloom . . . that is, if Ari doesn't ruin everything.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"This is the best kind of romantic tale: innocent and unfussy, yet overwhelming. Author Panetta's story is baked to perfection: a crush that turns to infatuation—and later love—in the confines of a professional kitchen bristling with hot stoves, stuffed shelves, and perfectly shaped spanakopita." —[Los Angeles Review of Books](#)

★"Panetta and Ganucheau's graphic novel debut is as much a love story between people as it is with the act of baking. Ganucheau's art, in black ink with varying shades of blue, mixes traditional paneling with beautiful double-page spreads of detailed baking scenes, where the panels sometimes take on the shape of braided loaves...A tender blend of sugary, buttery, and other complex flavors that's baked with a tremendous dash of heart." —[Kirkus](#), **starred review**

★"Beautiful artwork depicts characters coping with life's increasing responsibilities and is especially sumptuous when focusing on the yummy desserts. This is both a delicious foray into the world of baking and young love and an endearing, realistic tale of two teens helping one another grow. A fresh take on the coming-of-age story that spotlights the triumphs and travails of young people." —[School Library Journal](#), **starred review**

"Bloom is a charming and compelling look at the first summer after high school, with the angst of choice and decision looming and the blush of first love. (Plus: there's baked goods!)" —*Melissa Fox, Watermark Books, Wichita KS*

"Illustrator Ganucheau's black, white, and blue art is drawn in a simple, naturalistic style with manga-adjacent expressions that suit the story...a pleasantly diverse cast and realistically varied relationship dynamics from Panetta (Zodiac Starforce) offer a thoughtful look at how one grows into and out of relationships, with all the commensurate joy, awkwardness, and reconciliation that family and friends offer." —[Publishers Weekly](#)

Updated 10/16/24

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group

Contact: mary.vanakin@macmillan.com

"A quiet, earnest romance with warmth and depth." —*Booklist*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- *Kirkus Reviews* Best Books of the Year 2019

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [INTERVIEW: Kevin Panetta & Savanna Ganucheau Talk BLOOM, Baking, & Music](#)
- [Extra Eisners - BEST TEEN PUBLICATION - Bloom by Panetta & Ganucheau](#)
- [8 Graphic Novels as Sweet and Charming as 'Heartstopper' on Netflix](#)
- [Pride Picks: Bloom and Chef's Kiss Make a Delicious Double Feature](#)
- [Why the Graphic Novel 'Bloom' Should Be in Your TBR Pile](#)

*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

Updated 10/16/24

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group

Contact: mary.vanakin@macmillan.com