

Title: *Super Fake Love Song*

Author: David Yoon

Genre: Young Adult Fiction

Reviewer Name and Grade: Kate S., 11th Grade

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Korean teenager, Sunny Dae, isn't super content with his life in Rancho Ruby- a predominantly white and very rich neighborhood in California- where he spends most of his free time hollowed away in his room. Along with his sidekicks, Jamal and Milo, they design and create videos about game accessories for their 'Screenjunkie' channel, possibly making them the biggest nerds in Rancho Ruby Senior High. This makes them good targets for football jocks like Gunner Schwinghammer, who is a consistent pain, with his belligerent remarks and outward annoyance. But, that's not the only reason for Sunny's not-so-content-life. Gray, Sunny's older brother, has abandoned him after becoming a rock-and-roll star at his school. What used to be a bond strengthened by an inside joke involving the stealing of small grey spoons at the country club, was torn up by Gray's newfound popularity and departure from home in an attempt to pursue music. Gray was cool, Sunny was definitely not. That is until Cirrus Soh, daughter of two building moguls, arrives in California. She's travelled to every corner of the planet, has many friends from those corners of the planet, and in general, is really, really cool. Just from Sunny's first encounter with Cirrus did he know that she was completely out of his league. How could a nerd, who has a maximum of two friends and creates game accessories in their free time for fun, even fathom being able to impress a smart, attractive, cool girl?

This soul-crushing issue is solved when Sunny offers a quick house tour, and Cirrus mistakens Gray's old room for Sunny's room. The defining features of Sunny's room are the rows of white boxes containing his DIY Fantasy FX creations and a plain bed. Whereas, the defining features of Grey's old room are rock-and-roll posters, hanging electric guitars, and guitar picks and rings strewn on a desk. Sunny plays along, not wanting Cirrus to notice the clear downgrade in personality by showing her his real room. Sunny talks about his so-called "experience" from being in a band (mostly just repeating tidbits of information he remembered from conversations he'd had with his brother) and needless to say, Cirrus is awed by him. However, Sunny can't just stop the act there. With a talent show coming up in just a few months, Cirrus is expecting a showstopping performance from Sunny, Jamal, and Milo (who, thanks to their close friendship, reluctantly agreed to pretend with Sunny). In the months leading up to the show, Sunny and his "bandmates" use the music room after school to practice. It's exhausting work, and this means less time focused on their favorite hobbies: growing their channel and making tech. However, at least it will help keep Sunny's facade up and even allow him to start a strong relationship with Cirrus. He even manages to make a surprising friend through all of it. Will Sunny succeed at saving face in all the surrounding chaos or will a heartbroken Cirrus eventually find out about his big lie?

Did the plot (for fiction) or presentation of information (for nonfiction) keep you interested?

Yes! David Yoon has a certain flow to his writing that makes it hard to put the book down. Not only were his interesting characters and creative dialogue exciting to read, but the plot was particularly entertaining because it progressed so that we could see Sunny's personal growth and self discovery throughout the months leading up to the talent show. Sunny and Cirrus' relationship is also pretty cute and you'll be cheering them and other friendships on throughout the book.

Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?

The pace of the book was just right. We learn about many aspects of his life so it never gets too repetitive or slow, in that even through small actions, we can see him progress as a character.

What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?

I would recommend this to 13+ year olds because it didn't contain a lot of mature themes or language and was an easy read!

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

This book is probably better suited for those who love a mix of romance and action in their reading. "Super Fake Love Song" doesn't just focus on Cirrus and Sunny's relationship but also on Sunny's progress with the band, and various friendships. Since it was also an easy book to get through, this book is great for people wanting to get back into reading.

What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?

Be ready for a twist near the end. Also, if you're into the romance aspect, expect to want to read more when you finish the book.

5 stars: I'm really glad I read this book; it was awesome!

Like I mentioned before, "Super Fake Love Song" checks all the boxes. It's entertaining, wholesome, has realistic characters and dialogue, and has character development in not only Sunny, but other side characters. However, I would say Cirrus and Sunny's relationship was a little two-dimensional and didn't progress as much as say, Gray and Sunny's relationship, so I would've liked to see more of it. Otherwise the book was a fun read. I wasn't expecting parts of the ending to happen, but it still made for an enjoyable book and will be added to my favorite list!