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# I Believe In A Thing Called Love



## Synopsis

One of Seventeen.com's Best YA Books of 2017 "Hilarious." [Publishers Weekly](#), starred review "Powerful messages of inclusion and acceptance." [Kirkus Reviews](#), starred review Desi Lee believes anything is possible if you have a plan. That's how she became student body president. Varsity soccer star. And it's how she'll get into Stanford. But she's never had a boyfriend. In fact, she's a disaster at romance, a clumsy, stammering humiliation magnet whose botched attempts at flirting have become legendary with her friends. So when the hottest human specimen to have ever lived walks into her life one day, Desi finds guidance in the Korean dramas her father has been obsessively watching for years where the hapless heroine always seems to end up in the arms of her true love by episode ten. It's a simple formula, and Desi is a quick study. Armed with her "K Drama Steps to True Love," Desi goes after the moody, elusive artist Luca Drakos and boat rescues, love triangles, and staged car crashes ensue. But when the fun and games turn to true feels, Desi finds out that real love is about way more than just drama. A Margaret Ferguson Book

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Desi's implementation of measures such as [Be Caught in an Obviously Lopsided Love Triangle](#) yields hilarious, at times unintended results, lending this teen rom-com a surprisingly thoughtful conclusion . . . [Goo's] funny, engaging narrative also delivers powerful messages of inclusion and acceptance." [Kirkus Reviews](#), starred review "The art-centric romance that develops between Desi and Luca is rewarding to follow,

as are their parental relationships, particularly that between Desi and her widowed Appa. Goo simultaneously honors and deconstructs romantic tropes, both in general and specific to K dramas, and does so using a wonderfully diverse cast. Publishers Weekly, starred review "In the tradition of best-laid plans, Desi's goes painfully awry in ways that elevate the story above the level of fluffy, cross-cultural rom-com. Friends and family are well crafted to inspire discussions about the comfort and complications they afford . . . Readers who crave believability with their fun and wit will be satisfied with the way the plan works out. VOYA

Maurene Goo grew up in a Los Angeles suburb surrounded by floral wallpaper and piles of books. She is the author of *Since You Asked...* and has very strong feelings about tacos and houseplants. You can find her in Los Angeles with her husband and two cats--one weird, one even more weird. [maurenegoo.com](http://maurenegoo.com)

I bought this book because of the cover and the title. I saw, "I Believe in a Thing Called Love," and I started dancing, as the addicting song by The Darkness played in my head. I mean, that's as good a reason as any to spend money on something. Add to that, the adorable cover, and I had my money. This book, by Maurene Goo, is the epitome of cute. The plot is cute and the characters are cute, and I say that with respect. I didn't think I'd like it at first, because the opening chapters seemed a bit obvious, but it wasn't long before I was enchanted. "I Believe in a Thing Called Love" follows Desi, a type A heroine during her senior year, after she concocts an insane plan to get a boy to fall in love with her. Desi is a literal, fact-based, skeptic who as it turns out is deeply romantic. She's an overachiever and caretaker, a role she inhabited after her mother died. She's kind, smart, loyal, and fearless. She's also an awkward, clumsy mess when it comes to romance and flirting. The klutzy scenes made me roll my eyes at first, but once I was about 1/3 into the book, I just decided to just roll with it, and I ended up finding Desi funny and endearing and started rooting for her. This novel is predictable, but I still wanted to finish it. Literally, it follows a formula as Desi follows a formula, and each chapter heading tells you what's happening next, but I still kept reading, because I love romance. I knew how it would play out and how it would end (as we always know how romances end) but that didn't make me love it any less. I closed this book with a huge smile on my face, and a strong hankering to download a bunch of K dramas. So, I recommend this book to

romance lovers (obviously), YA lovers, readers who crave diversity and lively characters. Maurene Goo's novel is vibrant and special.

I needed a book that was funny, and Maurene Goo is hilarious. There are genuine moments every few pages where I laughed out loud, or snorted, and in several instances screamed at what I couldn't stop from happening. It's a perfect book about a girl who just needs to feel in control in her life because things she couldn't control hit her when her mom died. And she does control so much and excels at sooo much, aside from romantic relationships. In those she racks up "flailures" (flirting + failure), so she decides to do what she's always done: study a situation and develop a series of steps in order to be successful. This mc is awkward and Maurene Goo is unafraid of that awkwardness. It's hilarious without feeling forced. And I just love these characters so much. The supportive, imperfect friends. A father/daughter relationship that is realistic, fun, and supportive of each other. A MC that is powerful and confident, but also, sometimes not. And a romance, well, a romance that isn't afraid to be a romance. No apologies. I love a writer who is unafraid to love something, like unapologetically love something, and Maurene Goo with I BELIEVE IN A THING CALLED LOVE just embraces her love of romantic comedy and k-dramas. I don't know much about k-dramas, but I really need to watch some now that I've read this book. And really, I need this book to become a book everyone reads, and be on a million school summer reading lists. Then after everyone has read it, I need Netflix to adapt it into a limited series to capture all the incredible, beautiful, hilarious things this story is (because really, a movie deal? No movie could do justice to this). I'll rate I BELIEVE IN A THING CALLED LOVE with some of my other favorite "funny" books: Lance Rubin's DENTON LITTLE series, Max Wirestone's DAHLIA MOSS series, and Louise Rennison's GEORGIA NICHOLSON series . . . And I need to go back and find Maurene Goo's first book: SINCE YOU ASKED

I love, love, love this book. I didn't put it down once I got started. If you love K-dramas, you'll adore this. If you don't even know what a K-drama is, you'll still love this story so hard. It's funny, smartly so, but also poignant in places where it needs to be. A fantastic YA novel with a sweet, smart Korean American teen protagonist that I absolutely adore. This book can share the shelf with the best contemporary YAs out there!

I loved this story so much! It was so cute! There were many moments I kept thinking I can't believe she's actually doing this. There's a lot of humor and hijinks and drama. There are cute friendships

and family relationships and of course romance. It's a light and fun read. Highly recommend!

"I Believe in a Thing Called Love" is a charming and hilarious story of teen romance. I was rooting for Desi the whole time and loved the relationship that developed between her and Luca. When I was a teen I know that this would have been my favorite book. There were very few protagonists that reflected my own cultural background and this book is a blessing!

I pre-ordered this based on her first book, *Since You Asked*, and it was even better. I really appreciated the relationship between the young girl and her father (being a father myself). It was so good to see a positive relationship between a teenager and her father, it's so easy to make Dad the mean, old, non-understanding villain; a lot harder to do make their relationship work. And I have a new appreciation of Korean dramas, what a hoot! Congratulations Ms. Goo on a job well done.

This adorable book will make you smile, laugh, cry, and want to binge as many K-dramas as possible. Maurene Goo's voice is unique and fun, and I spent hours lost in this touching story.

I LOVED this book! I felt so nerdy while reading it because I am an avid K drama fan. I knew all the dramas referenced and it was all just so fun AND it followed the classic K drama romance storyline to a T. Awesome concept - I couldn't put it down and read it all in one sitting.

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