



# Too Many Cooks

*Dana Bate*

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**“Bate’s writing is smart and compelling.” --Publishers Weekly**

*In this hilarious, insightful new novel from the author of A Second Bite at the Apple, a cookbook ghostwriter finds that she’s bitten off more than she can chew...*

When Kelly Madigan is offered a job abroad right after reading a letter from her late mother urging her to take more risks, she sees it as a sign. Kelly’s new ghostwriting assignment means moving to London to work for Natasha Spencer--movie star, lifestyle guru, and wife of a promising English politician. As it turns out, Natasha is also selfish, mercurial, and unwilling to let any actual food past her perfect lips.

Still, in between testing dozens of kale burgers and developing the perfect chocolate mousse, Kelly is having adventures. Some are glamorous; others, like her attraction to her boss’s neglected husband, are veering out of control. Kelly knows there’s no foolproof recipe for a happy life. But how will she know if she’s gone too far in reaching for what she wants?

## Too Many Cooks Details

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Author : Dana Bate

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## From Reader Review Too Many Cooks for online ebook

### Best Crime Books & More says

Kelly Madigan is an easy character to like from the get go. With her eccentric family, her steady and likeable boyfriend seems to make her life perfect. However, when her Mum passes away she leaves Kelly a letter which tells her to get out there and cause some waves in her life and not to settle for the easy option. This sets Kelly off on a chain of events which see her take some drastic decisions including upping and moving to London to work as a ghost-writer for a celebrity writing her own cookbook.

Enter Natasha Spencer, the sort of celebrity fictional character I love to hate. She appears to have it all, looks, fame and money but seriously lacks in personality. Kelly is instantly dwarfed and overwhelmed by her new employee. In addition to Natasha she also has to put up with her ridiculous assistant Poppy who just adds to the hilarity of Natasha's over inflated sense of self. Natasha, although everything people probably imagine some celebrities to be like, make the book so much more readable and there is nothing like a bit of backstabbing and bitchiness to liven up a book. I also loved some of the one liners that Kelly's friend Meg came out with, it injected a real laugh out loud element to certain parts of the story.

When Kelly meets Natasha's husband MP Hugh Ballantine things get even more crazy and before you know it Kelly feels a million miles away from home and incredibly lonely. The characters, the cooking and the general air of drama and humour around this book seems the perfect combination to me. I enjoyed Dana's first book, but not as much as this one. Once I was into the story I didn't want to put it down. A fantastic read which I thoroughly enjoyed and cannot wait to see what's next for Dana Bate.

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### Critterbee\* says

Start out with main character Kelly in a secure, long term relationship with a man who has never put a foot wrong (all though apparently it is much more important that he is very handsome, and a doctor, even though you are urged repeatedly that that is not the case).

Continue with a celebrity gossip-mad best friend mentally stuck in middle school, an endearingly eccentric father, a struggling younger brother and a career doing, well, what she REALLY enjoys doing.

Onward to a lucrative job offer, both monetarily and career-wise, for a famous American actress in London. For Kelly, that she would be working for an extremely famous person seems quite awe-inspiring.

Kelly jumps at the chance immediately, without consulting her partner. I can understand Kelly being honest with her long-term boyfriend and wanting to pursue a sparkling career opportunity. So far, not too bad. Goodbye faithful lover, recently bereaved Father, and struggling younger brother who she has basically raised. It is Kelly's time, everyone! (Spoiler alert, she forgets about her ex rather easily, so do not waste time worrying about him).

When she arrives in London, she meets her new boss, The Natasha. Kelly is, for some unknown reason, surprised that the high-paying, exciting job might actually be difficult. The Natasha wants things her way - how dare a boss paying you an incredible amount, plus your housing costs, be demanding?

Kelly dislikes The Natasha excessively, but decides to continue working for her anyway. Although, after her

first meeting with The Natasha, she straight away violates her NDA by spilling everything over Skype to her celebrity gossip hound best friend back in the USA. After all, legal contracts? Not strong enough to prevent Kelly from doing as she pleases. It must be safe to divulge private information over an unsecured form of communication to her gossip-mad bestie who works in the media. That is just how Kelly rolls, ya'll!

Immediately Kelly is extremely attracted to The Natasha's husband, a physically attractive MP (politician). Strangely, Kelly does not seem to think that is so very wrong. After all, hot MP's wife is demanding, highly strung and unforgiving. Kelly rationalizes that because (1) the marriage does not seem affectionate and (2) she dislikes The Natasha, that the MP husband must be open game.

Soon, she is sleeping with her boss's husband, and falling in love with him. Of course her boss discovers what is happening in her home. Unbelievably, to Kelly, her boss seems to want to preserve her marriage. Kelly is confused as to why anyone would want to preserve a marriage in which there is no true love. Kelly really, really loves this paragon of a husband, this one who sleeps with his wife's employees. And he says that he really, really loves her. After a month of cheating with him, that is what really, really matters to Kelly.

When Kelly is confronted by Bosswife, she tries to defend what she has been doing. Yes. She is not sorry that she is cheating with her boss's husband. Bosswife tells Kelly that she is going to concentrate on her marriage, wanting to win back her husband and make it work. Kelly actually replies, "You haven't won yet, This isn't over." Smacks of virtue, doesn't it? Standing up to your boss about sleeping with her husband?

Of course, Mr. Boss really, really loves her, but not enough to end his 'loveless' marriage, and most certainly not enough to chance ruining his political career. Poor Kelly is surprised and heart-broken. No worries, though! The next day, she meets a new man on her way to Paris. Everything she needs to heal and start her (third) true journey to finding herself. Watch out Paris wives, sweet little Kelly is on her way.

I have not disliked a book this much in a long, long time. The writing was actually not bad. That the author incited such strong feelings is, well, is something. Better than indifference, I guess. The portrayal of the main character as a sweet virtuous underdog was irritating. Never does Kelly inspect her own complete selfishness, entitlement and self-pity. Kelly believes that everything happens to her, not as a result of her choices.

Sure, at the end, her heart is broken, but has she really learned anything? Kelly feels that SHE has been mistreated after having done nothing wrong. Also, food references are thrown in, perhaps to distract you from Kelly's shaky moral compass and to make her more sympathetic. She has questionable ethics, but wow, can she cook! Can not recommend.

\*\*eARC netgalley\*\*

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## Up-in says

Great book! I really enjoyed the characters and story. The story goes along at a good pace with some predictable twists & turns, yet keeps you interested.

Kelly Madigan is a cookbook ghostwriter who leads a pretty normal (boring life). She reads a letter her mother left for her before she died which encourages Kelly to add some adventure to her life. Soon after, Kelly received an offer to collaborate with super star Natasha Spencer, who lives in London. Kelly decides to take up the offer and moved from Michigan to London. In doing so her long time boyfriend dumps her. Once she begins working with Natasha she realizes Natasha can't make up her mind about any of the recipes and requires endless taste tests before she approves it. Kelly tries to accommodate her, but her personal beliefs about not wasting food, leads her to leave meals for Natasha's husband, Hugh. This begins the demise of her ghostwriting job and whirlwind romance.

NOTE: I received a copy of this book in-exchange for my honest opinion/review.

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## **Melissa says**

Some people have been saying that Food Whore: A Novel of Dining and Deceit is *The Devil Wears Prada*, but with food. Those people haven't read Dana Bate's delicious new offering. This is because Natasha Spencer makes Miranda Priestly seem angelic, if that's even possible. I was cringing for Kelly every time Natasha said something rude to her. I couldn't even imagine someone treating me this way and I felt really bad for Kelly throughout the story. Especially when things got even more complicated.

Dana Bate once again has produced a well-written and enjoyable novel with enough tasty sounding treats to keep my stomach growling throughout. (Thankfully, there are recipes in the back!) She keeps her readers guessing the entire time as to what the outcome will entail. Kelly is another sympathetic and relatable character, even when she's doing something she knows is wrong.

My only concern is that the ending felt a bit rushed. I would have loved another chapter or two, or even just an epilogue. I think she took it in a realistic direction, but it would have been nice for Natasha to get some karma served to her. I love seeing mean characters get their just "desserts." I also think it would be fun if Dana wrote another novel from Natasha's point of view, just to shake things up a bit.

Overall, if you're looking for a great story to curl up with this winter, definitely take a chance on *Too Many Cooks*!

My dream movie cast:

Kelly: Britt Robertson (<http://imdb.to/1Tk75FX>)

Natasha: Rose Byrne (<http://bit.ly/1Xzt2S9>)

Poppy: Krysten Ritter (<http://imdb.to/1Teug3S>)

Hugh: Henry Cavill (<http://bit.ly/1MX4JIM>)

Sam: Aaron Tveit (<http://bit.ly/1YAqRA9>)

Stevie: Josh Peck (<http://imdb.to/1QMJJuh>)

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## **Rebecca says**

*Too Many Cooks* is the second novel by Dana Bate that I have had the pleasure of reading. *The Stall of Second Chances* (you can find my review [here](#)) was the book that originally introduced me to the author back in 2014 and, after reading *Too Many Cooks*, it's clear to see that Dana is just getting better and better with every story that she creates. If you've read any of Dana's previous novels and you, like me, have marvelled at how deliciously delectable they were, then I can tell you right now, it's probably best to not read

Too Many Cooks on an empty stomach.

In *Too Many Cooks*, Dana introduces the reader to Kelly Madigan, occupation cookbook ghostwriter, and incredibly talented when it comes to even the tiniest intricacies of the taste and texture of food. As the novel begins, Dana chooses to place the reader alongside Kelly as she prepares the food for her mother's funeral, including the dish that her eccentric mother was famous for: her well-known spaghetti salad. I can only applaud Dana for beginning Kelly's story in such a way. The emphasis on food really set the tone for the rest of the novel, as well as placing the foundations for Kelly's character. The reader learns about Kelly's father and how he's coping since the death of her mother, and we meet Kelly's best-friend Meg who remains a constant, upbeat and entertaining presence in Kelly's life while she's away from home. We're also told of Sam, Kelly's predictable, 'boring' boyfriend. But, when Kelly receives an email offering her a very prestigious position, ghost-writing renowned Oscar-winning actress Natasha Spencer's newly announced cookbook, Kelly's life in Michigan gets flipped upside down. After finding a moving letter from her mother, hinting towards the fact that she wants Kelly to ditch Sam and do something exciting with her life, Kelly sees this as her perfect opportunity to do so, and sets off for London.

Dana Bate structured Kelly's story perfectly. From the moment Kelly left Michigan and stepped foot on London ground, the book was a complete and utter whirlwind of an adventure, including scrumptious food, an Oscar-winning actress's unbelievable expectations, and a crazy, passionate romance. Not only that, but *Too Many Cooks* was exciting, incredibly funny at times, and it had that magnetic pull that had me desperately turning the pages, eager to know more and find out where Kelly's story would go.

Kelly's time in London, spent working as Natasha's ghostwriter and giving in to her every whim and rule, had me giggling and gasping in equal measure. There were moments when I couldn't quite believe what I was hearing or seeing, and I had no choice but to applaud Kelly for having handled some of the ridiculous situations that she found herself in such an impeccable manner! It was clear, as soon as I was introduced to Natasha Spencer, that she and Kelly were both very different people who had experienced very different upbringings. Natasha was utterly flawless, lived a life of sleek luxury and had her trusty assistant to deal with anything even slightly messy or difficult, whereas Kelly, to me, felt so much more down-to-earth, wholesome and grounded. There was, however, one thing that the two women had in common but, even despite this, Natasha still had to have the upper hand. This also included having the upper hand in the husband department, too. Hugh Ballantine, MP and ridiculously handsome, not only had Kelly swooning, but I found myself swooning right along with her. I think it's fair to say that sparks definitely flew when Kelly set eyes on this impeccable man. Only problem being, she was his wife's ghostwriter... Uh-oh!

As expected, since reading and LOVING Dana's *The Stall of Second Chances*, *Too Many Cooks* was absolutely simmering over with some of the most deliciously, temptingly tasty dishes I can think of (and some not-so-tasty!). From sweet potato fries to a strangely-received loaf of banana bread, the pages within *Too Many Cooks* were packed with food descriptions teasing enough to get your taste-buds tingling. Dana's focus on food added such a gorgeous homely feel to the story despite Kelly spending time with an Oscar-winning actress. It was as if, even though surrounded by the expense and grandeur of Natasha's lifestyle, Kelly's roots had followed her all the way to London.

The sheer entertainment and grip that *Too Many Cooks* provided me with was enough to have me dying to see how Kelly's story would end. I couldn't wait to see how the story would wind up, and in which direction Kelly and the rest of Dana's fantastic characters would go. There was so much depth and feeling to Dana's plot, it was impossible for me to detach myself when I wasn't reading. It was exciting, satisfying and everything that I had hoped for and more.

I seriously, seriously, seriously cannot recommend this book to you enough. It had everything that I needed and more. From Dana's brilliantly crafted characters to how fabulously the plot thickened, it was a real, down-to-earth story about one woman finally deciding to take her chances and go for it, just like her Mum

had said.

Becca's Books is awarding Too Many Cooks by Dana Bate with FIVE GLORIOUSLY PERFECTED CUPCAKES! I'm already eager to read Dana's next release, because there is no doubt in my mind that it will hold the same deliciously riveting storyline that I can never get enough of.

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### **Moz says**

i love dana bate, she makes waking on your life and starting all over seems very simple to do <3

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### **Karen says**

This didn't feel like your standard women's fiction novel. I enjoyed reading about someone with an unusual career--a cookbook ghostwriter--and I enjoyed the fact that she couldn't help falling for a charming, but married, man (whose British accent made me imagine that it was played by Hugh Grant).

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### **Agi says**

Well, Dana Bates has already taught me a lesson - never read her books when you're hungry or on a diet! She's taking the whole food - thing to another level, with her incredibly delicious, vivid descriptions, and the way she writes about food - with feeling, with respect to food, and she can describe all the smells and aromas in such a way that I can almost smell them through the pages of the book. Even if it is kale burger.

Kelly Madigan is a ghost - writer of cook books, and a very talented one. So talented that she's recently being scouted by an assistant to a very famous Hollywood star, Natasha, married to Hugh Ballantine, who is an MP. There is only one problem - Natasha lives in London, and Kelly's whole life is in the USA - her boyfriend, her brother, and her recently widowed father, as yes, Kelly has recently lost her mum. But - her mum has left her a letter, and reading it makes Kelly to think twice about her life - her mum very rightly pointed out that she's living very dull and safe life, with her boring boyfriend (mum's words!) and no excitement.

Probably there are those words that see Kelly flying over the pound to work with Natasha. She's decided to leave her boyfriend and finally take a risk. But will working for Natasha be worth of leaving everything behind? Is this job going to make or break her career, or break Kelly herself?

I - except of some hiccups that I'm going to mention later - adored Kelly, loved the story of her coming out of her comfort zone, out of her shell and living life differently. I loved seeing how quickly she always wins the people over and that she really didn't have a problem with people, she was open and so easy to make contact. And hell, yes, she asked a lot of questions! I liked her, even when she did things she shouldn't have done. But as much as I was smitten with Kelly, there was one thing that made me so very angry with her - namely, she too often let other people to walk all over her, to treat her like a doormat, and too often she agreed to everything, without thinking... what was the most used answer by Kelly? "Okay..." - even though she hasn't thought the stuff through, without thinking about herself. She should grow a backbone or two, our Kelly. She was so eager to please that sometimes it was too sweet and too unnatural, but altogether she is more than normal, very believable girl, girl with dreams and hopes and I really wanted her to succeed.

The book introduces us to really great developed characters. I wanted to say "lovely" and "likeable" but then I thought it over and well, the truth is, not all of them are likeable or lovely. But they are absolutely brilliantly portrayed and they don't leave you indifferent - I personally either loved them or loved to hate them. Of course, among those unlikeable were Natasha herself - it was more than often that scenes with her, the things she said or did, left me with my mouth open, reading the passages again to make myself sure that she really said or did this what I've just read. She was the perfect diva and what I only missed was the entourage of twenty people around her, not only her assistant, to hanging on her every word, fulfilling her every wish and desires. I thought that if she's going to ask Kelly once more if Kelly has just called her liar (this is what I call queen of jumping to conclusions, really) I'm going to reach into the book and kick her backside. She is the best example of how easy it is to manipulate people, and how easy people fell under the spell of someone beautiful and famous. To be honest, this is how imagine a true Hollywood A - lister.

Out of the other characters, there were the people that Kelly left behind, her father, brother and best friend Meg, who added humour to the story, with some plans including dead mouse or snake, or just with being there for Kelly.

Dana has really brilliantly described the details and knick - knacks of being a ghost - writer, and what in fact this job involves - from having to listen to some very vague descriptions of some dishes into creating the perfect recipe, which sometimes took longer and sometimes shorter, but always is a challenge. I mean, you must really know what you do, you must really know your food, all the details, all the ingredients to try to match them and create this perfect dish. Especially when you have such a demanding client as Natasha was - guys, believe me, there were moments that I wanted not only slap her hard, but I just wanted to break her neck, and I am truly a peaceful person. She has really tried my patience, Natasha, and I must have applauded Kelly more than once or twice - I'd just throw everything for Natasha to clean herself and go away. Career here or there.

I incredibly enjoyed the insight into the ghost - writer's life, and into the concept itself - call me dumb but I had no idea that it works like this, and thanks a lot Dana for explaining this whole process to me. I, your usual buyer of cook books, was sure that well, yes, the author has tried all the recipes, and by trying I mean cooking, preparing, polishing, not in Natasha - trying - style (or not!). Probably I am too much into Nigella or Jamie, believing that they are presenting this what they themselves have cooked, but now I know how it's working.

While some bits of the book may be predictable, the book on the whole is a very surprising one - it can be quite unexpected, and there is no guarantee for a happy end, but whatever Dana writes, and however the book ends, it's fully satisfying. And you know, I think that Dana Bates has ended the book in the best possible way, because - let's be honest - Kelly got into hot water, a very uncomfortable situation, and no matter how we look at it, she was always the one to be called "the bad one". It's a shame, because she was so nice and lovely, and so honest in her feelings, and she wanted only good things happen to everyone, and it pained me so much to see her so hurt, and so used.

I think that it is Dana's best book yet, each new novel is better than the previous one and I really can't wait to see what's more she has in store for us. It's a novel with a good story line and quickly paced, with really strong characters, and of course let's not forget the exquisite cuisine, with few recipes at the end as a bonus - I can't wait to try them, especially this spaghetti salad! If you are into brilliant food descriptions, into stories with twists and turns, great dose of humour and told in a wonderful, engaging, warm way, then you should try Too Many Cooks.

## **Marian says**

Pretty fun. All the right ingredients (get my cooking reference there?) for a relaxing and enjoyable read.

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## **Alison McBain says**

I've been working on a number of projects, so I was in the mood for an escapist book to read, something fun and fast-paced. I am also a sucker for books about chefs, since I am married to one. So it was with the combination of these two interests that I read Dana Bate's novel *Too Many Cooks*.

This is Ms. Bate's second novel, and after reading it, I am going to pick up her first book, too. In style, the writing reminds me of one of my favorite romance/woman's lit writers, Kristan Higgins. Like Higgins, Ms. Bate's style is light and irreverent, with a wise-cracking main character who tends to fall into unfortunate situations.

However, that's not to say Bate is a carbon copy of Higgins, as there are a number of differences between this book and Higgins' novels. Bate's main character, Kelly, is a loner who travels from the Midwest to the UK in search of adventure, whereas most of Higgins' characters are surrounded by family and friends, and living in the towns they grew up in on the East Coast. While many of Higgins' characters tend to be a bit insecure, the main character of this novel has a sense of who she is and what she wants.

Some similarities between the authors include stellar pacing and suspense, a hopeful romance, top-rate humor, and the idea that things don't always turn out how one expects.

The book begins with a funeral--the perfect start to a lighthearted romance, right? But it works out to be a reoccurring motif. Kelly Madigan's mother has just died, but she left behind a letter urging her daughter to be more adventurous. With that in mind, Kelly jumps onto a plane with the next job offer she receives, which is to ghostwrite a cookbook with superstar Natasha Spencer in England. But the job offer isn't quite what she expected--in fact, nothing is what she expects, from putting together an eclectic cookbook for her control freak of a boss, to late nights spent chatting with her boss's attractive husband. Kelly's search for adventure might have taken her too far out of her comfort zone and into strange waters indeed. If her mother were still alive, what would she think of Kelly's escapades?

Although there are heavier themes touched upon in the book, such as death, adultery and the downside to fame, none of them stray too far from the genre or leave a reader feeling dissatisfied. Everything is resolved in the end, one way or the other. It's a fast read, and I'd recommend it for someone looking for something light and fun.

This review was originally published in the magazine *Bewildering Stories*, Issue # 678.

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## **Dee Ownbey says**

Took me longer than normal to read through this book but I finished it. And hoping the ending would be worth it, no it wasn't. I was not happy with the ending or finding out there's not a continuation to this book lol

## **Aoife says**

I received a free digital copy from the author/publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest feedback.

Kelly has always thought her life was pretty perfect. She has a gorgeous and dedicated doctor boyfriend and a great career as a cookbook ghostwriter but things come crashing down when Kelly's mom suddenly passes away and leave her a letter telling her to shake things up and live life with no regrets. The next day, Kelly finds herself taking a job offer for Natasha Spencer, a very famous actress, and moving across the water to London for a whole year.

I enjoyed this book to an extent. The writing was good and detailed and I really liked Kelly's experimentation with all of the recipes. I'm not someone who enjoys cooking but I still enjoyed reading about the different ingredients used and how they changed the taste of the food. It would have been nice for Kelly to see a bit more of London while she was there and ingratiate herself into a group of friends a bit more. Normally with these kinds of novels, the protagonist finds herself a small group of friends she bonds with and can chat to and have some adventures with. Kelly was very isolated, and in a toxic environment, and I think this made my mood a darken a little bit while reading it. It would have been nice for Olga and Kelly to bond more, I felt like a nice relationship kept being hinted at and it just never happened.

And Natasha, oh my goodness. It's been a while since I hated a character so much and since a character has irritated me that much. I wanted to reach through the pages and throttle her. She, and Poppy, reminded me a tiny bit of Miranda Priestly, especially because Poppy acted like Miranda's assistant Emily, both in her attitude towards her job and towards Kelly.

I knocked off a few points on the ratings (this was originally going to be 3.5-4 stars) because of the relationship between Kelly and Hugh. It left a bitter taste in my mouth. I always suspected it wasn't going to end up great and I hate that, even though he wasn't necessarily a bad guy, he managed to get away with everything, I would have liked some kind of epilogue showing that Kelly did get her book deal for definite but maybe there will be a sequel. Overall, I was impressed with the writing style and strength and despite some of my problems, I enjoyed the story.

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## **Heather Duff says**

I really love Dana's last book, *The Stall of Second Chances*, it was a great story and a fab cover, so far Dana's next book *Too Many Cooks* has one of those things - a fab cover! Does it have a great story?

Now I have been reading a lot of post-apoc lately so this charming tale makes a welcome change. It has a large helping of humour, a dash of cray-cray crazy characters, gallons of descriptions of food, which are plain amazing (oooo and recipes too) and it also had a generous pinch of chemistry.

Kelly is a cookbook ghostwriter, she has it all, excellent job, great but mad family and a loving, amazing boyfriend. Her life is perfect but following the death of her mother, a letter written to her by her Mom changes her life, but will it be for the better?

Well her life changes considerably, she is offered a job she cannot refuse with megastar (and crazy person) actress Natasha Spencer but it is in London, she decides to leave her boyfriend and take up this once in a

lifetime job.

When she arrives in London she discovers that not only is Natasha bat-shit crazy but her husband, an MP is incredibly handsome (he sounds like Tom Hiddleston) and sparks chemistry.

She loves to cook and test out the recipes for the cookbooks that she helps writes but Natasha is about as much help as a chocolate fire-guard, demanding she recreate recipes from her childhood without even the slightest hint as to how they were made. The woman is just plain mad.

But Kelly tries and keeps her head down and gets on it with whilst trying to avoid her growing closeness to Natasha's husband, Hugh. The pair have many moments where they are alone together, will they act upon their chemistry?

So how does this book pan out, will Kelly sleep with her boss's husband? Will this cookbook get written? Has Kelly made a horrible mistake? Will there be lots more yummy descriptions of food?

Well yes to the food, as for the rest well find out for yourself by picking up a copy of this book!

It truly is a deliciously, entertaining read with fun characters and lots of great food!

Thank you to Little Brown for providing me with a copy in exchange for an honest review

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### **Dana says**

I'd be failing at my job (and possibly life) if I didn't rate my own book 5 stars. (Also? I had SO much fun writing this one!)

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### **Kim says**

A lovely read. Natasha travels to London to be a ghost writer on a cookery book for a famous actress, Natasha Spencer. Is it going to be the dream role that she's hoping for? Natasha is a very self centred lady and isn't going to make the experience the easiest one. Natasha wants to include recipes from her past- but she doesn't give her much help with the recipes or ingredients and is determined to demand little changes to perfect recipes. I loved the way that Natasha tests them out and tries to please her boss!

I could picture the markets and the festival that Natasha went to in Nottingham. She's searching for the perfect ingredients. One day she dreams of writing her own books.

Her best friend keeps her grounded whilst she's allowed her head to peep into the clouds. She's in a bubble, not seeing circumstances clearly.

The ending sees us hoping that Natasha's life is now leading into an exciting future- let's hope there is a follow up! Very tempting recipes are included at the back.

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