



# Confused Spice

*Mathis Bailey*

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"The author beautifully melds the art of cooking with rising romantic desire." - Kirkus Reviews

This delectable tale revolves around twenty-nine-year old Pierre Jackson, who dreams of becoming a renowned pâtissier and chef. He moves from Detroit to Toronto with his handsome fiancé, DeAndre Harris, who has just landed a prestigious job at a major news station in the city. Everything seems to be perfect...until a secret comes to light that throws their relationship for a loop. With everything falling apart, Vijay Khakwani, a gorgeous Indo-Canadian man, moves into Pierre's apartment. When Pierre's messy apron catches his eye, Pierre is propositioned to teach Vijay how to cook, and their neighborly acquaintance gets tantalizingly close.

Meanwhile, Vijay is also battling the odds in his life. He's constantly in between jobs and running into trouble with the law. His mother, a powerful attorney and Toronto socialite, is tired of rescuing her son and just wants him to take some responsibility. She orchestrates an arranged marriage for Vijay, thinking it will cure him of his reckless habits and put him back on the straight and narrow. In a last ditch effort to change his life around, Vijay immerses himself into Eastern spirituality. As he goes through his spiritual journey, it forces him to confront the dark secrets in his family's past.

As Pierre teaches Vijay the art of cooking in their intimate sessions, Vijay shows Pierre the beauty of Buddhism. What will become of the two?

## Confused Spice Details

Date : Published August 16th 2016 by CreateSpace

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Author : Mathis Bailey

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## **From Reader Review Confused Spice for online ebook**

### **Alicia (PrettyBrownEyeReader) says**

I enjoyed this debut novel. Looking forward to a sequel!

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### **Jaclyn says**

Wish there had been more of a resolution. The chemistry between Pierre and a Jay was fantastic, and Jay's unwillingness to acknowledge his feelings felt real. I like the friendship between both of them, and food they cooked all sound delicious!

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### **Djj says**

Pierre is gay, African-American, engaged and living in Toronto, and meets Vijay, his maybe bisexual, and hypermasculinized neighbour. They become friends and a lot of cooking happens. Being a middle aged straight white guy I had trouble relating to anything or anyone in this book, but I did find getting inside these two guys' heads interesting (the story is told first person from each of their points of view). The writer perhaps needs a little time to develop, this is a first novel, but there's a lot of potential. If nothing else the world needs more stories that aren't about guys like me :-). I also think this would make a good movie.

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### **Ahdev says**

It was a nice breezy read, have to thank the author for that first!

Though I'm not a fan of LGBT romances, the relationship between Pierre and Jay was beautiful and the words portray the emotions as such! You can feel both their views and you travel along with them on their journey. The story moves in a good pace and you can't stop until you know what happens to them next!

Cooking plays a major part both in the story as well as in the reader's mind – the way the author has penned will definitely make you crave for more!!

Along with that, a healthy dose of spirituality too. Loved the way how the author had perfectly captured the flavour of India and blended it rightly!! Cute moments of Buddhism, French cooking class will make you smile. And there's lot of sensuality too.

Pierre being perfect and nice, Jay being confused and human is what makes the story a realistic ride. I didn't find the ending confusing; the confusing ending is what makes the story unique and stay in your mind!

But there was one missing ingredient, I didn't know what. Maybe the lack of depth of secondary characters. Else it would have been just perfect! But have to definitely congratulate the debut author for a stupendous effort!! Keep writing Mathis and also don't stop cooking!! :)

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**kaythereader says**

Really good debut novel. Can't wait to see how Mathis grows as a writer.

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**Elizabeth, Rebeca & Jasmine Pizarro says**

Vijay and Pierre are two very different men that reside in Canada. Pierre attends culinary classes during the night and enjoys cooking Indian cuisine when he is at home. He meets his neighbor Vijay and they hit it off. They become close friends that cook together and talk about their lives. They enjoy each other's company so much but circumstances tear them apart. Is there more to their relationship than just friendship?

I enjoyed Pierre's character the most. I feel that he is a fantastic human being that likes to help their friends feel good about themselves. He is willing to stay up late to help Vijay learn how to cook. He is not pushy and respects that Vijay is trying to find himself. I recommend this book to an audience that enjoys a bit of sensuality, loves a story about complete strangers becoming best friends and an overall great story. I appreciate Mathis for giving us the opportunity to read and review his novel.

-Rebeca

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**Michelle says**

*Copy provided by author in exchange for an honest review*

~Full Review to Come

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**Rena says**

Pierre and Jay were both flawed, but that's what made their story captivating. I want to know where they go after this.

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**Didi says**

Here is the live show discussion we had with Mathis Bailey the author. I was joined by Michael Reads, ArtBooks Life Denise D. Cooper and Morgan\_Gayle to discuss Mathis Bailey's book. You can watch the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMk7f...>

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## **FreeFormLady says**

It wasn't quite 4 stars, but still an excellent read. This book was a great start to what could be a wonderful series. I sure hope the next book is already in the making because I can't wait to see what happens with Jay & Pierre.

WARNING: Do Not read this book while hungry! LOL! The food was the unspoken 3rd main character. I loved the cooking, food descriptions, and recipes in this book.

More of my thoughts will be in a video coming soon. Link will be placed here.

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## **YupIReadIt says**

More like 2.5

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## **Crystal says**

I won this debut novel in a Goodreads Giveaway. Thoroughly enjoyed it. Look forward to reading more by Mathis Bailey in the future. Also hope there is a sequel

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## **Nerdy Lola says**

In taking my new Kindle Unlimited subscription for a run, I stumbled on this nice little gem by this debut author. Confused Spice meshes the love for cuisine and spirituality into a tale of two men navigating their way through a relationship. Be warned don't read this book when you are hungry. The description of spices and cooking methods was enough to get me excited about the fate of these two men. Despite all the food references, at the core is a good story that explores homosexual perceptions, spirituality and love. This is definitely worth a read if you have a subscription to KU.

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## **Puja Kshirsagar says**

Plot summary:

The story centres around Pierre, a homosexual, who is dealing with heartbreak after his bisexual boyfriend cheats on him. Stuck in a boring job, Pierre doesn't find anything exciting to do with his life unless he meets Vijay, fondly known as Jay. Vijay and Pierre are next-door neighbours and soon become good friends. Vijay often calls Pierre over to his apartment to cook for him since Pierre is an incredible cook.

Pierre, however, is attracted to Vijay from the very first day. Vijay, an Indian, on the other hand, is confused about his sexuality. Although he strongly advocates that he is straight, he gradually develops feelings for Pierre and longs to be with him all the time.

The story takes a twist with the entry of De'Andre, Pierre's fiance who cheated on him. He apologises to Pierre with all his heart and tries coming back into his life. Things become more complicated when Vijay's mother learns about Pierre's sexuality and the nature of his relationship with her son. What happens to Pierre and Vijay's weird relationship in the end? Well, for that, you must read the book!

#### Writing Style:

The style of writing of the author is entertaining and crisp. It is simple and hence easy to understand. He tries to portray Pierre and Vijay's relationship in great detail, thus making it look real. You can read the book with pace.

#### My Perception:

I must say it is a great genre to choose considering the fate of homosexual relationships across the world, especially in India. It is a bold subject and perfectly portrays the feelings of homosexuals. The story in itself is entertaining. All in all, a good read!

Read full review here:

<http://www.haloofbooks.com/confused-s...>

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## Catherine says

3.5. Kindly read my review until the end!

Received a copy from the author exchange for an instagram post and honest review.

I enjoyed over all but there were some aspects I had some issues with. For one, I was not a fan of Vijay's character development. It just lacked depth and his parts in the novel seemed half baked. You could tell Pierre's chapters were much longer than Vijay's. Second, the cheating. Dre physically cheats while Pierre emotionally cheats. So why all the fuss with Dre but Pierre is completely infatuated with Vijay. Third, many of the supporting characters didn't really do much to help build the story: Pierre's friends and acquaintances, Vijay had no other friends, etc..

Don't get me wrong, I did enjoy it. Especially at first because it had that light flirty contemporary vibe but it started going all over the place but it did make sense in the end.

I do need to cut the author some slack because this is his debut novel and it was enjoyable and entertaining. I'm being nit picky because the I love Character driven stories. The plot and the setting were great. His writing style is so realistic that you feel like you're right in front of the characters as the story goes on. I do recommend this for people that want to explore the genre. Really great debut and I'm excited to see more books from him!

PS: I really do hope there's a sequel because I wasn't expecting that cliffhanger!

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