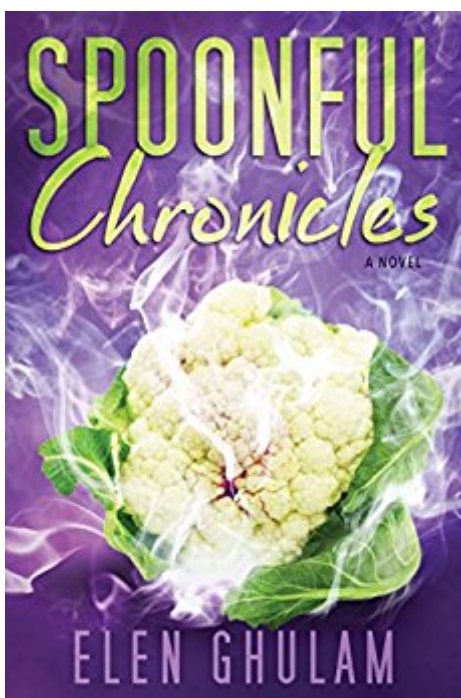


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# Spoonful Chronicles: A Novel About Food



## Synopsis

Shortlisted for the 2017 Whistler Independent Book Awards Thaniya Rasid grew up in the Middle East dreaming of becoming a surgeon. Now living an ordinary life as a mother, wife and a hospital lab tech in Vancouver, Canada, she garners unexpected fame as YouTube's Queen of Hummus when her video demonstrating the recipe goes viral. How could blending chickpeas in a food processor generate so much excitement? And how could her life have ended up so far away from all her expectations? To make sense of the unlikely events that have brought her to this place, Thaniya turns to food, curating memorable eating experiences of her life, searching for clues. Between her childhood aversion to cucumbers, her search for an authentic Iraqi kubeh in the city of Jerusalem, her 10-year tomato wars with her husband Samih, a mood altering encounter with a blood pudding in Edinburgh, and a Kafkaesque nightmare involving a cauliflower, Thaniya unravels repeated patterns occurring in her life. The secrets of love, friendship and destiny hidden in her cauldron of mishmashed cultures begin to reveal themselves. Between lust and disgust there is a thin line. Spoonful Chronicles is the beguiling story of one woman taking hold of her fate by uncovering the clandestine geography of this divide in her heart. If you enjoyed reading *Like Water for Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel, *Chocolat* by Joanne Harris, *The Hundred-Foot Journey* by Richard C. Morais or *Heartburn* by Nora Ephron then this foodie fiction is for you. You can receive recipes of the food described in the novel by signing up to a mailing list for free. Details inside the book. You can have this book and eat it too.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book was quite a bit different than what I expected.

Had I the power to do so, I would star, highlight, bold, and italic this novel so everyone would know how amazing it is. At times like this, 5 stars seems so inadequate. Sprinkled with bits of wisdom and seasoned with unique observations, this melange of flavors is sure to delight the senses. Elen Ghulam's words are like poetry set in prose, powerful in their ability to evoke images and feelings, while also self-effacing and often quite amusing. In fact, I highlighted so many areas of the novel for their unique expressions of mundane circumstances that I started to feel like I was overdoing it. She takes that which is common and elevates it to extraordinary while taking the ethereal and making it easily comprehensible. I give this novel my highest recommendation. I would be surprised to discover that any of my friends dislike it because I can't imagine that being the case. I feel like my words cannot do justice to the work of Elen Ghulam, so I'll let her words persuade you. I'll end this with some of my favorite quotes: My life had been a page filled with poetic words dancing in anticipation. A prose so beautiful as to make your heart shudder. But when I emigrated, all the letters scurried away. The meaning dissolved the way scratches in the sand are washed away by the waves of the sea. It became a whole notebook filled with ink-resistant white sheets of paper. I saw nothing. His vowels glide melodically; the ends of his words stay open as if unfinished. His sentences float in the air like helium balloons, bumping against each other in a subtle teasing aggression. When he woke up the words to the song dropped into his head the way bird poop drops from the sky. I peeled myself out of bed like a spoon out of molasses. Today I feel like a tomato sauce that has been spiked with cinnamon. Something you can force yourself to tolerate, yet clash with every step of the way. Every bite and lick screams of the wrongness of this mixture. The silence stretched between us like an overbaked cheese strand refusing to let a slice leave the mother ship pizza. Destiny is dancing in our wounds wearing slippers lined with salt. They say the shortest path to a man's heart is his stomach. But what is the shortest path to a woman's heart? I suspect the answer is: Nobody cares. My mother had

purchased clear broth with boiled vegetables swimming in it. Little bits of carrot and peas looked like they were stranded in a hot tub waiting to be rescued from a torture session after they had ratted on all their collaborators. I wonder if injuries travel down generations. What part of my grandmother continues to live through me? I don't want to think about this. It is too disturbing. I put the thoughts away, bury them under a thick sludge of mud. Little bubbles pop up to let me know that what got stuck in the giant mud bath of my unconfirmed truths is fermenting away. One day a giant kimchi tree will sprout and shower me with pickled cabbage and shrimp juice. That day isn't here yet. No need for panic.

Spoonful Chronicles is the story of Thaniya Rasid, a woman who grew up in the Middle East and dreamt of becoming a surgeon. Now she lives an ordinary life as a mother, wife, hospital lab tech, in Canada. Thaniya becomes rapidly famous when a Youtube video of her demonstrating a recipe goes viral. Thaniya wonders how one meaningless video about food could get so much excitement. And also about the strange twists her life has taken to make her end up here. She goes on a trip down memory lane, revisiting past memories with connections to food, searching for clues to how food has helped shape her life. The book isn't just about food, though, it's about much more about the different cultures Thaniya has been exposed to in her life, about life itself and all its ups and downs, about childhood dreams and how far away from them we often end up, about happiness and how it can be found in the simplest things. This is a book that will keep readers on the edge of their seat. Fans of women's fiction will devour this one. I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review

I savoured every bite of this delicious novel! More than a little autobiographical, I am sure, author Elen Ghulam's journalistic style fits well with the hopscotch of topics covering life, love, family, politics/current affairs, and FOOD! Her wry and self deprecating humor leavens the seriousness of fleeing suicidally dangerous regimes and terrorism and offers an insider's perspective. Using art, poetry, storytelling, and FOOD! she shares a multicultural world view while inviting us to share her joy in life.

I got a preview free of this novel. Really strange "story", actually I am still confused as to what the story was. Will not be getting the full novel.

Kindle Unlimited No idea what this story was actually about; read it twice, still no idea.

This is a delightful book contrasting eastern and western cultures with insight and humor. It fostered interesting discussion at our bookclub.

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