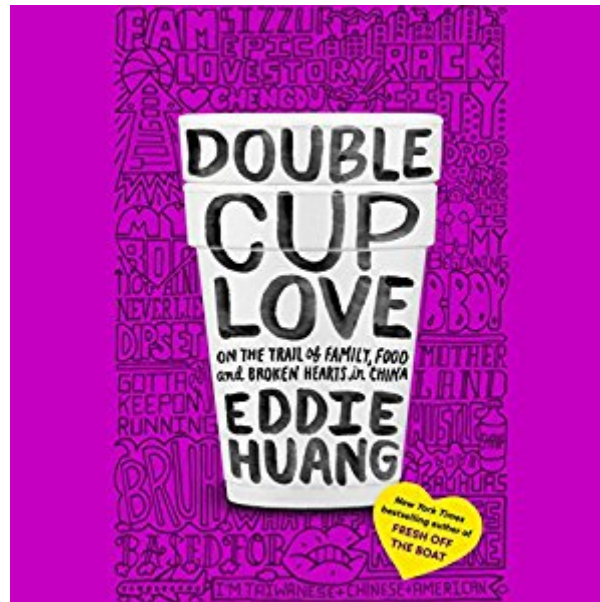


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Double Cup Love: On The Trail Of Family, Food, And Broken Hearts In China



Synopsis

From the author of *Fresh off the Boat*, now a hit ABC sitcom, comes a hilarious and fiercely original story of culture, family, love, and red-cooked pork. Eddie Huang was finally happy. Sort of. He'd written a best-selling book and was the star of a TV show that took him to far-flung places around the globe. His New York City restaurant was humming, his OKCupid hand was strong, and he'd even hung fresh Ralph Lauren curtains to create the illusion of a bedroom in the tiny apartment he shared with his younger brother, Evan, who ran their restaurant business. Then he fell in love - and everything fell apart. The business was creating tension within the family; his life as a media star took him away from his first passion - food; and the woman he loved - an All-American white girl - made him wonder: How Chinese am I? The only way to find out, he decided, was to reverse his parents' migration and head back to the motherland. On a quest to heal his family, reconnect with his culture, and figure out whether he should marry his American girl, Eddie flew to China with his two brothers and a mission: to set up shop, to see if his food stood up to Chinese palates - and to immerse himself in the culture to see if his life made sense in China. Naturally, nothing went according to plan. *Double Cup Love* takes listeners from Williamsburg dive bars to the skies over Mongolia, from Michelin-starred restaurants in Shanghai to street-side soup peddlers in Chengdu. The book rockets off as a sharply observed, globe-trotting comic adventure that turns into an existential suspense story with high stakes. Eddie takes listeners to the crossroads where he has to choose between his past and his future, between who he once was and who he might become. *Double Cup Love* is about how we search for love and meaning - in family and culture, in romance and marriage - but also how that search, with all its aching and overpowering complexity, can deliver us to our truest selves.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 5 hours and 48 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Random House Audio

Audible.com Release Date: May 31, 2016

Language: English

ASIN: B01ENLIVCA

Best Sellers Rank: #38 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Chinese #87

Customer Reviews

If anyone here has seen that movie, you will know what I mean. He is offbeat, hilarious (with an open mind), has a potty mouth, and imaginative jokes with sometimes obscene punch lines. Mr. Huang here hits just that spot and some. He may offend some, but if you have healthy expectations and the right appetite, you're in for a treat. If he's not your cup of tea, no worries. Then go back to your normal memoir programming. Love, adventures, food, family. It covers it all. As a fellow Asian-American, there were a ton of moments I thought: "Ah ha!" That happened to me too! It helped me make sense of this mess of an American identity many of us go through. If you're familiar with George Carlin, you will appreciate some of the rather blunt things Huang says. I thoroughly enjoyed some of the stories/social commentary regarding the stigma of being Asian, even between Asian ethnic groups. I was drawn into the stories and dialogue, much like a friend, or my G, as Mr. Huang likes to say. The hip hop influence of the 90s and early 2000s is very much in full effect. The narration almost feels like the Netflix show "Master of None." Casual. Laidback. Jokes on every page. Every so often will throw a pebble that still makes you think long after the page is read. Expect a good dose of jokes of many kinds - slapstick, offbeat, out of nowhere, and tasteful. Expect to learn and contemplate more about your identity (Asian or not). Pick this up. And don't ever let the girl go if she double plate stacks your food. P.S. For those curious ones, the Vine program (you know, the green font) blessed me with an advanced reader copy so I can use eyeball time before you waste yours.

I wasn't even going to review this book but then it kinda bugged me when I started reading other reviews and saw so many that clearly don't "get it" that Eddie isn't some family-friendly sitcom writer. I loved Fresh Off the Boat (the book!) and was pretty skeptical about the TV show taking off until I saw how much they got it twisted, and was not a bit surprised to hear about his reaction to it. I'm not focusing on that topic here though -- still loved that book, and I DO genuinely like Eddie Huang's writing style, all of the slang and "foul language" included. I think it's authentic and refreshing and for me it's pretty funny and easy to follow. However. I've gotta be real and admit that I just didn't really enjoy Double Cup Love. It took me several weeks to finish what should have been a two-day read because I just kept getting kind of bored with the endless descriptions of quite similar sounding dishes. I felt like this book touched on so many things without ever really getting down to business.

On the topic of his relationship, especially, I just didn't "see it"...it seemed like there were tons of details and anecdotes missing or edited out that made the impact of the story practically nil. It was like someone telling me how they fell in love with a guy because he had blue eyes, smelled nice, and loved a band they also loved. I'd be like, "Oh yeah? That's too bad". Boring! Maybe it's just me. I dunno. Three stars is about as high as I can go.

I love the first book, but this sequel is simply an attempt to make more money from the success of "Fresh off the Boat" and Eddie Huang's celebrity, rather than a serious attempt to explore the worthwhile topics of dating and Asian American personal identity that it purports to:- Bothers me that Eddie Huang had to get his editor's approval for the idea of this book before he went to China. Read: This book is more like a reality show, it was approved by the publishers before any of the events actually happened. Not genuine like the first book.- Too much sexual innuendos and language in the book, very cringe inducing. Some language about incest, WTF?- The whole thing with AMWF marriage proposal was just to hook you in, but Eddie spends very little time actually talking about this. This was more like a bait-and-switch. He spends 95% of the book talking about random topics OTHER than romance / dating.- Lacks focus. There is no overarching life story like the first book. This is more like a random splattering of conversations he had with people in China... and the reflection and analysis of these conversations were very minimal.- Too much focus on Evan / Emery, bland people with zero personality that you don't care at all about. Honestly I can't even tell who is who after reading this book.

I would rate it a 3.5. I really enjoyed reading Fresh Off the Boat. Double Cup Love focuses more on his cooking, his brothers, the food and cooking in China, his friends/people he meets in China, and of course relationships. What bothered me in Fresh Off the Boat is that he writes exactly as how he would talk. That is no different in this book. Now that can either be a good thing or bad thing for you. For me, it bothered me a bit only because maybe I'm not used to all that slang. He has a lot to say and I enjoyed reading it, but sometimes I felt he jumped from one subject to the next and then back to it again. Overall a great read if you are a fan of Eddie Huang, love food and have a sense of humor.

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