

it started with a kiss series

It Started with a Kiss Series: A Comprehensive Guide to the Beloved Romantic Franchise

It started with a kiss series has captured the hearts of viewers worldwide with its charming characters, engaging storylines, and memorable romantic moments. Originating from a popular manga, this franchise has expanded into multiple adaptations, including Taiwanese dramas, Japanese series, and even a South Korean remake. Whether you're a long-time fan or just discovering the series, this guide provides an in-depth look into its history, adaptations, characters, and why it continues to resonate with audiences today.

Overview of the It Started with a Kiss Series

Origins and Inspiration

The series is based on the Japanese manga *Itazura na Kiss* (イタズラなキス Kiss) written and illustrated by Kaoru Tada. The manga was first published in 1977 and has become a classic romance story loved across generations. Its universal themes of love, perseverance, and personal growth have made it a timeless favorite.

Key Themes

- Love overcoming obstacles
- The contrast between different personality types
- The importance of perseverance in relationships
- Family and friendship dynamics

Popularity and Cultural Impact

Since its debut, the series has inspired numerous adaptations, each bringing its own flavor while maintaining the core story. The franchise's popularity is reflected in its dedicated fanbase, merchandise, and ongoing discussions on social media platforms.

Adaptations of the It Started with a Kiss Series

1. Taiwanese Drama Series

The Taiwanese adaptation, titled *It Started with a Kiss*, aired in 2005 and is arguably the most famous version. It starred XY and Joe Cheng as the leads and became a massive hit in Taiwan and beyond.

Key Details:

- Number of episodes: 20
- Main cast:
- Joe Cheng as Jiang Zhishu
- Ariel Lin as Yuan Xiangqin
- Plot highlights: Focuses on the unlikely romance between a diligent but poor student and her brilliant, aloof classmate.

2. Japanese Live-Action Series

The original manga's country of origin, Japan, produced its own live-action adaptation titled *Itazura na Kiss*, which aired in 1996, 2005, and later in 2013.

Notable features:

- Emphasizes the manga's humor and emotional depth
- Features different actors across adaptations, with the 2013 version starring Fumi Nikaido and Yuki Furukawa

3. South Korean Remake

In 2013, South Korea released *Mischiefous Kiss*, a modernized version with updated settings and cast.

Highlights:

- Gained popularity for its fresh take on the classic story
- Starred Kim Hyun-joong and Kim So-eun

4. Chinese and Other International Versions

The franchise's worldwide appeal led to various adaptations and remakes in different languages, each tailored to local audiences while preserving the core narrative.

Main Characters and Their Development

Yuan Xiangqin (Taiwanese Version)

- A cheerful, hardworking girl from a humble background
- Develops confidence and independence throughout the series
- Her heartfelt perseverance endears her to viewers

Jiang Zhishu

- A genius student and heir to a wealthy family
- Initially cold and aloof but warms as the story progresses
- Represents the "tough exterior, soft interior" trope

Supporting Characters

- Yuan's friends and family who provide comic relief and emotional support
- Antagonists who challenge the protagonists' relationship, adding tension

Why the Series Continues to Captivate Audiences

1. Universal Love Story

At its core, the series explores the timeless theme of love overcoming social barriers and personal insecurities. Its relatable characters and heartfelt moments resonate across cultures.

2. Memorable Characters and Chemistry

The chemistry between leads, especially in the Taiwanese version, has become iconic. Their genuine interactions make viewers emotionally invested.

3. Humor and Heartfelt Moments

Balancing comedic scenes with emotional depth, the series appeals to a broad audience, making it both entertaining and meaningful.

4. Nostalgia and Cultural Significance

For many fans, the series is nostalgic, reminding them of their youth and the universal experience of first love.

Impact of It Started with a Kiss Series on Pop Culture

Influence on Romance Dramas

The franchise set a standard for school-based romantic dramas, inspiring countless similar stories across Asia.

Fan Engagement and Community Building

Dedicated fanbases have created forums, fan art, and fan fiction, keeping the series alive long after its original broadcast.

Merchandising and Spin-offs

From DVDs to clothing and accessories, the franchise's merchandise continues to thrive, showcasing its lasting popularity.

Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of It Started with a Kiss

The It Started with a Kiss series remains a beloved romantic franchise that has touched millions around the world. Its compelling characters, heartfelt storytelling, and cultural significance ensure that it will continue to be celebrated for generations to come. Whether in its original Taiwanese form or its various international adaptations, the series exemplifies the universal power of love stories and their ability to connect people across different backgrounds.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1: Is there a sequel or spin-off to the series?

Yes, some adaptations have produced sequels or related series. For example, the Taiwanese version has a follow-up called They Kiss Again, which continues the story of Yuan Xiangqin and Jiang Zhishu.

Q2: Where can I watch the different adaptations?

Availability varies by region, but popular streaming platforms like Viki, Netflix, and YouTube often host episodes of the most famous versions. Fans should check regional licensing.

Q3: Are the adaptations faithful to the manga?

While each adaptation preserves the core story, they often incorporate regional cultural elements and may update settings or character backgrounds to appeal to contemporary audiences.

Q4: Why is the Taiwanese adaptation considered the most popular?

Its engaging performances, chemistry between the leads, and faithful adaptation of the manga's humor and emotional moments contributed to its widespread acclaim.

Final Thoughts

The *It Started With a Kiss* series stands as a testament to the enduring appeal of heartfelt romance stories. Its multiple adaptations across countries showcase its universal themes and relatable characters. Whether you're revisiting old favorites or discovering the series for the first time, its charm and warmth continue to make it a beloved part of Asian pop culture. Dive into its world, and experience the magic of love that truly started with a kiss.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main plot of the 'It Started With a Kiss' series?

The series follows the romantic and comedic journey of a sweet but academically average girl, Kotoko, and her genius but aloof neighbor, Naoki, as they navigate love, misunderstandings, and life's challenges after she confesses her feelings to him.

Is 'It Started With a Kiss' available on streaming platforms?

Yes, the series is available on various streaming platforms such as Viki and Netflix, depending on your region, allowing fans worldwide to watch the episodes legally.

Are there remakes or adaptations of 'It Started With a Kiss'?

Yes, the story has been adapted into multiple versions including the Taiwanese drama 'It Started with a Kiss,' the Japanese remake 'Itazura na Kiss,' and a South Korean adaptation, each with its unique cast and style.

Who are the main actors in the original 'It Started With a Kiss' series?

In the Taiwanese version, the main roles are played by Joe Cheng as Naoki and Ariel Lin as Kotoko. Different adaptations feature their own respective casts but these actors are iconic in the original series.

What themes does 'It Started With a Kiss' explore?

The series explores themes of love, perseverance, self-confidence, family support, and the importance of staying true to oneself despite life's obstacles.

How many seasons or episodes does 'It Started With a Kiss' have?

The original Taiwanese series consists of two seasons with a total of 40 episodes, along with a spin-off and various special episodes that expand on the story.

Why is 'It Started With a Kiss' considered a classic romantic comedy?

Its charming characters, heartfelt storytelling, and relatable portrayal of unrequited love and perseverance have made it a beloved classic among fans of Asian dramas worldwide.

Has 'It Started With a Kiss' influenced other dramas or media?

Yes, its popularity has inspired numerous similar romantic comedy stories and adaptations across Asia, contributing to the genre's growth and inspiring many creators.

Is there a sequel or continuation to 'It Started With a Kiss'?

While there isn't a direct sequel, the story has been revisited in various adaptations and spin-offs, and fans often enjoy watching different versions to see how the story is retold.

Additional Resources

It Started With a Kiss Series: A Heartwarming Journey Through Romance and Nostalgia

The It Started With a Kiss Series is a beloved Taiwanese drama franchise that has captured the hearts of audiences across Asia and beyond. Known for its charming characters, delightful humor, and heartfelt storytelling, this series has become a quintessential example of the romantic comedy genre in Asian television. Spanning multiple adaptations and continuations, the series offers a blend of nostalgia, humor, and genuine emotion that resonates with viewers of all ages. In this comprehensive review, we will explore the origins, plot, characters, adaptations, and overall impact of the It Started With a Kiss Series, providing insights for both longtime fans and newcomers alike.

Origins and Overview

The It Started With a Kiss Series originates from the Japanese manga "Itazura na Kiss" by Kaoru Tada, which was first published in 1977. Its popularity in Japan led to multiple adaptations across different countries, including Taiwan, South Korea, and China. The Taiwanese adaptation, which is the most iconic and widely recognized, was produced by Comic International Productions and aired in 2005. Its immense popularity prompted sequels, remakes, and spin-offs, cementing its status as a cultural phenomenon.

The series follows the romantic misadventures of the cheerful and determined high school girl, Xiang Qin, and her genius classmate, Jiang Zhi Shu. The story revolves around themes of perseverance, love, and personal growth, set against the backdrop of teenage life and family dynamics.

Plot Summary

The core narrative of the It Started With a Kiss Series centers on Xiang Qin, a spirited and somewhat clumsy girl who struggles academically but possesses a resilient heart. Her life takes a turn when she falls in love with Jiang Zhi Shu, a brilliant but aloof student from a wealthy family. Despite her initial insecurities and Zhi Shu's cold exterior, their relationship develops through a series of humorous, awkward, and touching moments.

The plot explores their journey from high school crushes to mature love, overcoming obstacles such as social class differences, misunderstandings, and personal insecurities. As the series progresses, the story delves into their struggles with academic pressure, family expectations, and personal aspirations. The narrative's charm lies in its blend of comedy, heartfelt emotion, and relatable teenage dilemmas.

The sequel series, "It Started With a Kiss 2," continues to follow Xiang Qin and Zhi Shu as they navigate university life and beyond, adding layers of complexity to their relationship and individual growth. The series also explores themes of career ambitions, marriage, and parenthood, making it a comprehensive coming-of-age saga.

Characters and Performances

Xiang Qin (played by Angela Chang)

Xiang Qin is the quintessential optimistic and resilient heroine. Her infectious enthusiasm and unwavering loyalty make her a relatable and endearing character. Angela Chang's portrayal captures Xiang Qin's innocence, stubbornness, and heartfelt love, earning her widespread acclaim.

Pros:

- Charismatic and lively performance
- Genuine portrayal of youthful innocence
- Inspires viewers with her perseverance

Cons:

- Some may find her overly naive at times
- Lack of depth in certain emotional scenes

Jiang Zhi Shu (played by Joe Cheng)

Zhi Shu is depicted as a genius with a cool exterior but a warm heart beneath. His character embodies the archetype of the seemingly aloof but deeply caring romantic hero. Joe Cheng's subtle acting and chemistry with Angela Chang contribute significantly to the series' success.

Pros:

- Charismatic and handsome portrayal
- Complex character with growth over time
- Excellent chemistry with Xiang Qin

Cons:

- Occasionally too stoic, which might alienate some viewers
- Some plotlines rely heavily on his character's genius trope

Supporting Characters

The series features memorable supporting characters, including Xiang Qin's family, friends, and Zhi Shu's affluent family members. These characters add depth, humor, and emotional layers, making the world of the series richer.

Key Features and Highlights

- Humor and Heart: The series skillfully balances comedic moments with heartfelt scenes, making it both entertaining and emotionally resonant.
- Relatable Themes: Themes such as unrequited love, perseverance, family bonds, and personal growth are universally relatable.
- Strong Chemistry: The palpable chemistry between leads Angela Chang and Joe Cheng is often cited as one of the series' strongest points.
- Cultural Impact: The series has inspired numerous fan gatherings, merchandise, and even a dedicated fan community.

Adaptations and Spin-offs

The It Started With a Kiss Series has seen multiple adaptations across countries, each adding its flavor to the

beloved story.

Taiwanese Version (2005)

This is the most iconic adaptation, starring Angela Chang and Joe Cheng. It is praised for its faithful adaptation of the manga and its charming portrayal of the characters.

Korean Version (2010)

Titled "Playful Kiss," this version starred Kim Hyun-joong and Kim So-eun. It maintained the core story but incorporated Korean cultural elements, gaining popularity in Korea and internationally.

Chinese Version and Other Adaptations

Additional adaptations include Chinese remakes and stage versions, each reimagining the story within different cultural contexts.

Spin-offs and Continuations

The franchise has expanded into web dramas, movies, and even animated adaptations, reflecting its enduring popularity.

Cultural Impact and Legacy

The It Started With a Kiss Series has left an indelible mark on Asian pop culture. Its themes of perseverance and true love resonate with audiences worldwide. The series has influenced other romantic dramas and inspired countless fans to pursue their own dreams and love stories.

Its memorable characters, quotable lines, and iconic scenes continue to be referenced in pop culture. The series also contributed to the international popularity of Taiwanese dramas, helping to establish Taiwan as a hub for high-quality television productions.

Pros and Cons Summary

Pros:

- Heartwarming and engaging storyline
- Memorable characters with strong performances
- Excellent chemistry between leads
- Balances humor with emotional depth
- Iconic soundtrack that enhances emotional moments
- Cultural significance and lasting legacy

Cons:

- Some plotlines may feel predictable or cliché
- Certain character portrayals may seem exaggerated
- Pacing issues in later episodes
- The series' humor might not appeal to all audiences

Final Thoughts

The It Started With a Kiss Series remains a standout in the realm of romantic dramas due to its endearing characters, relatable themes, and nostalgic charm. Its ability to evoke genuine emotion while providing lighthearted entertainment makes it a timeless favorite. Whether you're a fan of classic Asian dramas or new to the genre, this series offers a delightful journey into young love, perseverance, and the beauty of everyday life.

For those willing to immerse themselves in its heartfelt storytelling, the It Started With a Kiss Series promises an experience filled with laughter, tears, and inspiration — a true testament to the enduring power of love stories that transcend cultures and generations.

[It Started With A Kiss Series](#)

it started with a kiss series: It Starts With A Kiss S N Weddle, 2014-06-28 Middle-aged Jennifer Green is living a life of quiet despair following her husband's confession of an affair - until she encounters a half-crazed hobo who appears to know more about her than she does herself. Thanks to the tramp's strange powers, Jennifer suddenly finds herself 25 years younger, with the figure and face of a goddess and every millionaire in New York trying to date her. When Jennifer moves in with her own unsuspecting daughter she takes up 'honey trapping' to catch cheating husbands, even checking out her daughter's dodgy fiancé. But then her killer combination of

stunning beauty and mature wisdom makes her a star on prime-time TV, and she begins to realise that there is an astonishing connection between the hobo, the handsome stranger who once nearly hijacked her wedding and the rich, successful and impossibly handsome media tycoon who now sweeps her off her feet. *It Starts With A Kiss* is a magical, funny, sexy story of glamour and romance, of lost youth and found love. "On my wedding day, I committed myself to a truly wondrous man. If only he'd been my husband..."

it started with a kiss series: *It Started With A Kiss* Mary Lyons, 2011-07-15 Millionaires prefer blondes! It was certainly the case for Luke Cunningham. The American tycoon had seen Angelica Lonsdale in a crowded street and followed her, mesmerized by her long blonde hair. He would stop at nothing until he had her! But Angelica had more pressing problems than dealing with infatuated millionaires—however gorgeous. To save her family home she needed nothing short of a miracle. Luke Cunningham didn't consider himself hero material, but if the only way he could get Angelica into his bed was by assuming the role of a knight in shining armor...he was quite prepared to dust off his shield! He had an ideal solution to her problem and his—marriage! She'd get to keep her home, he'd get the woman he wanted right where he wanted her! But lust wasn't any basis for matrimony...was it? From the bestselling author of *The Yuletide Bride*.

it started with a kiss series: *It Started with a Kiss* Ella Quinn, 2017-04-01 This entry in the USA Today-bestselling Regency romance series features a handsome duke who hopes love won't cost a thing. This season, all eyes are on the Earl of Worthington's spirited, beautiful sister, Lady Louisa Vivers. Many gentlemen are vying for her attention in and around the ton. Yet, Louisa longs for someone who can take her beyond the ballroom—a man who is worldly, adventurous, and passionate. She won't settle for just any suitor. She wants her true soul mate—and she'll know him when she sees him. Is Gideon, the Duke of Rothwell, him? The moment he and Louisa meet, they share a powerful attraction. Rides at sunrise and waltzes at dusk follow. Finally, Gideon can no longer resist the urge to embrace her, and Louisa is sure he will ask for her hand. But Gideon believes he is in no position to marry. The Rothwell estate has gone bankrupt, a scandal simmers in its wake, and he has nothing left to offer. Now, he must decide if he will let pride stand in the way of true love—or if he will risk everything, and let the lady decide for herself... Praise for Ella Quinn "Romance builds in this satisfying, memorable read, perfect for fans of Grace Burrowes and Tessa Dare."—Booklist on *The Marquis and I* "Ella Quinn weaves magic."—Cathy Maxwell, New York Times-bestselling author of *His Secret Mistress* "Quinn writes classic Regency romance at its best!"—Shana Galen, national bestselling author of *How the Lady Was Won* "A classic Regency romp! Perfect for fans of Grace Burrowes." --Caroline Linden, USA Today bestselling author on *When a Marquis Chooses a Bride* "Three Weeks to Wed is a deligh

it started with a kiss series: *It Started With A Kiss* Clare Lydon, 2023-06-27 Can one kiss change your life forever? When two strangers meet in a bar and share a scorching, once-in-a-lifetime kiss, they never expect to see each other again. Until days later when Skye walks into Gemma's Surrey vineyard. For once, Gemma is lost for words. When they start working together, they agree nothing can happen. Business comes first. But such simmering sexual tension can only be contained for so long before the lid finally blows off... Join Gemma and Skye as they fight their growing attraction in this glorious, slow-burn romantic comedy set in a sun-drenched UK vineyard. Queen of British sapphic romance Clare Lydon does it again with this gorgeous summer page-turner!

it started with a kiss series: *It Started with a Kiss* Lisa Hobman, 2022-04-21 American Star Mendoza is living in her dream location, Edinburgh, a place she discovered in British novels while growing up. Employed at a trendy city centre coffee shop, quirky, pink-haired Star spends her days fantasising about a handsome businessman she serves daily. He's totally out of her league but a girl can dream, right? Fin Hunter is exhausted from striving for his father's elusive love and approval, and of following a life path of his family's making. When things go drastically wrong Fin decides it's time to stand on his own two feet and follow his own dream. Star is bereft when her handsome stranger stops coming to her coffee shop, but a chance encounter in the most unlikely of places leaves her wondering if her fantasy could now become a reality? Can opposites attract over their

love of a city and music or is their story simply doomed to fail? Previously Published as 'Star Attraction' Praise for Lisa Hobman: 'Involving and intriguing!' Sue Moorcroft 'Ruby's dreams come true in this heart-warming and sometimes heart-wrenching journey of discovery' Heidi Swain 'I love it! - escape to the beautiful Isle of Skye with this feel-good, uplifting story of lost love and second chances...' Holly Martin 'Simply gorgeous. An uplifting story of two broken individuals trying to find the courage to take a chance on love again' Jessica Redland 'A really uplifting, feel-good read about hope, love and second chances, that really did warm my heart.' Kim Nash 'A gorgeous, heart-warming romantic journey, reminds us to never give up on love...' Lucy Coleman 'You will fall in love with this story of fresh starts and mending broken hearts' Mandy Baggot 'A heart-breakingly beautiful story of love and loss set in the stunning village of Glentorrin. Be prepared to fall in love over and over again.' Nancy Barone 'What a beautiful read this was. I was rooting for Juliette from the first page. Lisa handled some tough subjects with a delicate and deft touch. I'm ready to escape to Skye!' Sarah Bennett

it started with a kiss series: It Started with a Kiss Sarah Morgan, 2020-02-10 Indulge with these irresistible and heart-warming winter romances by USA Today bestselling author Sarah Morgan! Featuring previously published titles *The Italian's New-Year Marriage Wish* and *The Doctor's Engagement*. Originally published in 2007 and 2001. Dr. Avanti claims his bride! As the snow falls gently on the Cornish streets, Amy Avanti summons up her courage and opens the door to Penhally Bay Surgery, knowing it will take her back to another life where she was adoringly in love with her husband—and now she's back to finally set him free. But sexy Italian Dr. Marco Avanti simply wants her back by his side, saving lives by day, making love by night. Marco's never stopped loving Amy, and he's going to find out what is causing the shadows under his darling wife's eyes. With the New Year approaching they are going to make a new beginning—and make their marriage magical again! His fake fiancée! Holly knew that she was possibly the only woman in Dr. Mark Logan's life who had never fallen head over heels in love with him! They had been best friends since childhood, so when he needed her to pretend to be his fiancée, she couldn't refuse... She hoped his gentle, protective strength would help her to get her life back on track again—but all it took was one single breath-taking kiss for Holly to discover that being Mark's fiancée was altogether a whole new experience...!

it started with a kiss series: It Started with a Kiss Lexi Buchanan, 2020-05-21 It started with a kiss one New Year's Eve and ended with me leaving her standing alone in the cold. One touch of my lips to hers and I knew she was trouble. The sweet innocent girl had no idea the reputation I had with the ladies—a different girl each night at the family owned nightclub I managed: Kenza. All anyone wanted was a good time and I provided that, then Gretchen Sinclair kept appearing not only in the nightclub, but in my dreams. Her glances made me nervous. Her soft smile made me crave. Then she stopped looking. She looked at him instead. It was time for me to do more than dream.

it started with a kiss series: It Started With A Kiss Stanley Sipka, 2021-12-12 The 63-year journey for Joanne and Stan was written because everyone should have the opportunity to see how Joanne spent her life helping everyone. I surprised her with an ever-so-gentle kiss on our blind date. She said she doesn't let guys kiss her on the first date. I replied, "there is always a first time for everything." We were married on June 28, 1958, on a beautiful sunshiney day. As the days turned to weeks to months and then years, our love grew. She didn't want the attention, was our cheerleader for all of us and was the center of the family. Together we were a team that lived the American dream. Joanne made me what I am today a guy who loved her and misses her and will work to be with her in heaven.

it started with a kiss series: The Korea Collection Korean Culture and Information Service Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, 2012-10-27 this book is a compilation of the cover story articles published in Korea Magazine from 2010 to 2011, offering a glimpse into Korea and Korean culture to foreign audiences.

it started with a kiss series: Situationship Marina Adair, 2022-10-25 Perfect for fans of Jill Shalvis and Susan Mallery, this California-set witty and modern twist on *How Stella Got Her Groove*

Back, from the New York Times bestselling author of *ROMeANTICALLY CHALLENGED*, blends the fun of falling in love all over again a second chance romance with a thoughtful and heartfelt exploration of the modern family—and where a situationship can lead. “Adair’s characters jump off the page, inviting readers to care deeply about their happy endings.” —Publishers Weekly The sand and surf of California’s coastal Pacific Cove is the charming backdrop for New York Times bestselling author Marina Adair’s fun and sexy novel about getting back on track after life makes a sharp left turn—and finding you’ve arrived in just the right place to get back your mojo . . . Teagan Bianchi has survived a road trip with rambunctious toddler twins and a large mutt named Garbage Disposal. She clings to a tattered scrap of hope that moving into her late grandmother’s house is the best way to repair her failing business—and the sad shreds of her life—after the man who promised her forever lost everything they had. But she’s barely arrived when she finds herself face to face with her teenage crush, now an irresistible man—who still happens to live next door . . . Veterinarian Colin West is closer to being an empty nester than a soccer dad. His marriage lasted only long enough to give him his beloved daughter, and he has no regrets. But as she readies for college, Colin contemplates his own future—which is, of course, exactly when his past shows up, as gorgeous as ever, and twice as fascinating. But Teagan torpedoed his plans once before. Is he crazy to consider letting her into his life again? Is Teagan ready to admit what she’s really afraid of? Could this unexpected “situationship” be forever?

it started with a kiss series: *Hit Singles* , 2004-09 (Book). This entertaining book presents the U.S. and U.K. Top 20 charts side by side, month by month showing how rock and pop developed on each side of the Atlantic. Fully updated, it lists the hits from 1954 through 2003. Alongside every song listing, readers will find important facts such as the artist's name and nationality, current and previous month's chart position, record label, weeks on the chart, and simultaneous position on the other side of the pond. Includes an alphabetical listing of song titles with artists, and an alphabetical listing of artists with song titles and chart-entry dates, enabling easy cross-referencing to help you track down any Top 20 record since 1954.

it started with a kiss series: *Queer TV China* Jamie J. Zhao, 2023-02-16 The 2010s have seen an explosion in popularity of Chinese television featuring same-sex intimacies, LGBTQ-identified celebrities, and explicitly homoerotic storylines even as state regulations on “vulgar” and “immoral” content grow more prominent. This emerging “queer TV China” culture has generated diverse, cyber, and transcultural queer fan communities. Yet these seemingly progressive televisual productions and practices are caught between multilayered sociocultural and political-economic forces and interests. Taking “queer” as a verb, an adjective, and a noun, this volume counters the Western-centric conception of homosexuality as the only way to understand nonnormative identities and same-sex desire in the Chinese and Sinophone worlds. It proposes an analytical framework of “queer/ing TV China” to explore the power of various TV genres and narratives, censorial practices, and fandoms in queer desire-voicing and subject formation within a largely heteropatriarchal society. Through examining nine cases contesting the ideals of gender, sexuality, Chineseness, and TV production and consumption, the book also reveals the generative, negotiative ways in which queerness works productively within and against mainstream, seemingly heterosexual-oriented, televisual industries and fan spaces. “This cornucopia of fresh and original essays opens our eyes to the burgeoning queer television culture thriving beneath official media crackdowns in China. As diverse as the phenomenon it analyses, *Queer TV China* is the spark that will ignite a prairie fire of future scholarship.” —Chris Berry, Professor of Film Studies, King’s College London “This timely volume explores the various possibilities and nuances of queerness in Chinese TV and fannish culture. Challenging the dichotomy of ‘positive’ and ‘negative’ representations of gender and sexual minorities, *Queer TV China* argues for a multilayered and queer-informed understanding of the production, consumption, censorship, and recreation of Chinese television today.” —Geng Song, Associate Professor and Director of Translation Program, University of Hong Kong

it started with a kiss series: *Feels Like the First Time* Marina Adair, 2024-09-24 Romance makes a comeback in the second *Destiny Bay* novel from the New York Times–bestselling author who

writes with heart and sizzling heat (Jill Shalvis). What's wrong with a little white lie? There are a lot of things Ali Marshal doesn't do: pink anything, a day without chocolate, and Hawk, her sister's ex-husband. Sure, he's a sexy former NHL star who can make her pulse pound with just a wink. But he belonged to Bridget first. And no matter how long she's had a crush on him, how great he's always been to her dad, or that her sister is engaged to someone else now and Ali needs a date to their engagement party, she can't give in to temptation. Can she? It's been years since his disastrous marriage crashed and burned, and Bradley Hawk has finally moved on. So when Bridget blows back into town with her new fiancé, throwing the engagement party of the year, he could care less . . . until Ali tells one little lie that lands him smack dab in a fake relationship. After one promise to be Ali's date and two of the hottest kisses he's ever had, Hawk can't deny how much he wants her. But what happens when this fauxmance starts to feel very, very real? 4 stars! Adair's second book in the Destiny Bay series is touching, and oh-so-tantalizing! — RT Book Reviews

it started with a kiss series: It Started with a Diamond Teri Wilson, 2017-07-01 An heiress nabs a polo star in this scintillating romance from the USA Today–bestselling author of *The Princess Problem* and *His Ballerina Bride*. A Page Six Exclusive Report Stunning world-class equestrian Diana Drake has stayed out of the family business for decades. But now Diana has the inside track on a coveted diamond . . . not to mention a polo-playing partner in crime in Franco Andrade. And after mere weeks, the city's most eligible bachelor is engaged to the jewelry heiress! Still, this whirlwind romance may not be as glittering as the jewels in Drake's. After all, we hear that Franco's first love has always been the polo team that unceremoniously sacked him. And Diana's still recovering from the loss of the sport she's always cherished. Can the handsome Argentine help his new fiancée capture the diamond of the century . . . and in the process repair her shattered heart?

it started with a kiss series: Why We Love The Dogs We Do Stanley Coren, 2012-12-11 For anyone who has worried that being beguiled by puppy love might lead only to a short-lived dalliance, Stanley Coren provides the ultimate matchmaking service. Combining his expertise in human psychology and animal behaviour with the research of other animal experts, Coren classifies dogs according to such personality traits as friendliness, protectiveness, and steadiness. To discover which dogs will suit them best, readers take simple personality tests that reveal what they are looking for in a relationship. Extroverted men, for example, may be surprised to find that poodles make the ideal companions; shy women are likely to prefer the company of a bulldog; and men lacking trust might consider an independent Shar-Pei. Stories about people and their four-legged best friends - and a gallery of photographs - capture the special dynamics between couples ranging from Freud and his Chow-Chow to Picasso and his Afghan hound.

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