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Bliss by Kathryn Littlewood

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Rosemary Bliss’s family owns a magical bakery. All the magical baked goods come from the secret Bliss Cookery Booke, a cookbook that has been in the family for generations. When her parents go on a trip, Rose is given the charge to protect the sacred cookbook and keep it safe. Since she was given so much authority, Rose believes that she is ready to try out some of the recipes, even if her parents told her not to. Then an unplanned visitor comes by: the motorcycle riding “Aunt” Lily. Aunt Lily’s vivacity, charm, and good food literally enchants the other children, yet Rose feels like Lily has ulterior motives. The day her parents return, Aunt Lily has gone missing along with the Bliss Cookery Booke.

Littlewood has concocted an addictive and delicious new series mixing food, fantasy, and fun. But aside from the magic and humor, Rose’s growth as a character showcases what many successful coming-of-age stories include: doubting her abilities, yearning for parental love and respect, defying parental guidance, gaining confidence in her talents, failing at responsibilities, and paying the price for negative actions. Readers will see that because of having all those positive and negative experiences, Rose learned that the love her family is more important than a fabulous life with Aunt Lily. Rose realizes that she’s stronger than Aunt Lily because of her family’s support. All this background to Rose’s character sets up a solid storyline for the rest of Littlewood’s series.

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