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A Little Something Different

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Lea and Gabe don’t talk to each other, but everyone thinks they are destined to be together. A squirrel, a bench, a Chinese food delivery man, a bus driver, a creative writing teacher, and other side characters describe shy Gabe and his terror of talking to Lea and Lea and how she’s confused by how Gabe acts sometimes. They’re in the same creative writing class, have the same order of Chinese food, and show up to the same places, but their terror and confusion about what the other one is thinking keeps preventing them from getting together. When Gabe decides to deal with some of his problems preventing him from being able to talk to Lea and other people, both of them have to decide if it is too late for them or just the right timing.

Although at first the fourteen different viewpoints not including the main characters is odd, over time seeing Gabe and Lea through their eyes makes this romance feel special. It is a little hard to believe that so many people would be so determined to see them together, and the Bench and the Squirrel are unusual choices for narrative characters. The viewpoint characters also sound the same and sometimes lack their own personalities, but it is impressive how much personality we see of Gabe and Lea through them. Although the story isn’t that complex and some of the narrative choices weren’t as strong as they could have been, the sweetness and cuteness of the story makes up for any shortcomings for romance lovers.

*Contains mild language and discussions of homosexuality.*