



# Mofongo

*Cecilia Samartin*

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## Mofongo Cecilia Samartin

Sebastian har en hjertefeil som gjør at han ikke kan spille fotball med gutta. Men han finner sin arena på kjøkkenet hos bestemoren Lola. Der lager de retter som fører familien sammen igjen.

"Det er magi vi skaper, ikke sant, abuela?" "Nå ja, det er avgjort en måte å se det på," svarte hun tankefullt. "Eller kanskje det er magien som skaper oss." Sebastian drømmer om å være som de andre gutta, å kunne løpe som en vind over fotballbanen. Men en hjertefeil gjør at han må stå på sidelinjen. Sebastian finner sin arena på kjøkkenet hos abuela Lola, og sammen tilbereder de eksotiske retter som fører en splittet familie sammen. Mofongo er Samartin-magi på sitt beste. Dette er en fortelling om å danse med døden, om hvordan små seire bygger vakre liv, om kjærlighet og lengsel gjennom generasjoner og hjerter som brister på så mange måter. Mofongo viser at skillet mellom glede og sorg ikke er skjørt, men usynlig.

## Mofongo Details

Date :

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Author : Cecilia Samartin

Format :

Genre : Roman, Fiction, Contemporary, Novels

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# From Reader Review Mofongo for online ebook

## Carola Johanningmeijer-harmsen says

De 10-jarige Californische Sebastian heeft een hartkwaal waardoor hij heel klein is, zich niet mag inspannen, niet kan spelen of voetballen (wat hij zo graag wil) en veel gepest wordt. Ook in zijn familie lopen de dingen niet goed. Gelukkig heeft hij zijn oma, een lieve, zachtmoedige Puerto Ricaanse bij wie hij iedere dag na schooltijd op bezoek gaat. Vroeger was zijn oma een opperbste kok, maar sinds een keukenbrandje mag ze van haar familie geen fornuis meer aanraken en moet ze genoeg nemen met de flauwe maaltijden uit het seniorencentrum. Na een ziekte verandert zijn oma echter, ze verft haar haren knalrood, trekt zich van niemand meer iets aan en begint weer te koken, de ene lekkere maaltijd na de andere. Sebastian wordt haar keukenhulpje en samen gaan ze zo hun problemen te lijf, weten de familie weer te verenigen en voor te bereiden op het onvermijdelijke.

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## James Field says

If this novel was intended as a tear-jerker, then the author succeeded. Not only because the story was intentionally heartbreakingly sad, but also because it had me laughing at its absurdity in places, and crying at its style.

Why laugh? The main character is a weedy ten-year-old boy with a dicky heart, who in my opinion, came through more like an adolescent. These are a few examples of his thoughts:

“Standing in the doorway with her thick hair slung over her shoulder, and one hand poised on her shapely hip, (Ms. Ashworth) was positively breathtaking.”

When I was ten years old I thought yucky girls came from a different planet and woman (no matter what age) were a generation so far apart that I'd have to live a hundred years before I got that decrepit.

‘ “We're going to learn a lot aren't we?” (Ms. Ashworth) said, crossing her shapely legs as she graced him with a smile that made his heart beat a little faster than it should.’

Really?

“He knew that old people talked about their adventures at the hospital as though they were discussing their latest vacation.”

Clever boy.

“The chicken was moist and tender, and he could taste the fresh garlic and onion in every bite.”

Probably missed the hint of oregano and squeeze of lemon since he was only ten years old.

“When Gloria glanced at Terence, he smiled in a way that let her know he was fine.”

Oh yeah, what way was that?

“He dipped his spoon into the bowl again, marvelling at the depth of flavour such a simple meal could possess.”

A ten-year-old connoisseur?

Why cry? The head hopping drove me crazy, swapping Point Of View even within paragraphs. I swear, if a

dog had walked past the scene we would have heard its POV too. A tedious plot didn't help matters either. I wanted to give the story two stars, but that would have been unfair. If you enjoy sentimental, heart-rending novels, and consider my criticism to be nothing more than nit-picking dribble, then I predict you will love this story and recommend you give it a try.

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## Victoria Heby says

I loved this book (read in Norwegian), the plot, the descriptions, beautiful. Also about the important things in life, and I love that. Unfortunately, a good part of the characters didn't come alive to me as I wanted them to, so therefore I will not give it a full score.

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## Ida says

Just a quick rant at the halfway point of Mofongo: Why do so many people have such difficulty with YOUR and YOU'RE? Honestly, it is so simple, and yet even college educated people with multiple degrees use it incorrectly. It rankles me, especially when unedited in a book! I have already come across at least three misuses of YOU'RE. That being said, I'm enjoying the story so far.

Normally this is the kind of story that would make me shed a tear or two or more, but for some reason, I was not affected in that way. This whimsical novel about a family divided by pride, guilt, and the health issues of a young boy, and the attempts by the grandmother to reunite her family, was written in a simple, unemotional tone. A little touch of magic and family lore added to the quaint quality of the story. I love the recipes at the end; a pleasant addition.

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## Vessy says

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## Sue says

LOVED it! This book is written in the tradition of Isabel Allende--beautifully-drawn characters, soulful, with touches of intuition and magic. Sebastian is a young boy with a heart condition, which prevents him from living his dream to become a great runner and soccer player. His only refuge from the school bullies, his physical limitations, and his overprotective mother is with his Abuela Lola. Together, they share family history and life lessons, juxtaposed with cooking the sumptuous dishes from Abuela's native Puerto Rico. I won't include spoilers, but the interweaving of complex family issues, beautiful examples of healing and forgiveness, descriptions of a family's rich heritage, and the inclusion of recipes at the end of the novel combine to make a thoroughly satisfying read. I enjoyed this as much as I enjoyed Ms. Samartin's amazing book about a Cuban family, *Broken Paradise*, which is great praise!

**?????? says**

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## Miia says

Cecilia Samartinilla on taito luoda lämpimiä tarinoita perheistä.

**Elizabeth (Stuffed Shelves) says**

This is an extremely touching story about a young boy Sebastian, his grandmother, and their captivating relationship. Sebastian has a condition that prevents him from accomplishing his goals of becoming a runner

and a soccer player. He's bullied at school, and overly protected by his mother. His only escape is with Abuela Lola, his grandmother.

Lola has given up her cooking, including her cooking supplies as she prepares for death. When Sebastian finds his grandmother on the floor of her kitchen, they stop waiting for death and decide to live their life to the fullest while they still can.

Together they share stories, family history, life lessons, and cooking. Abuela is from Puerto Rico where their culture is full of amazing recipes. Now that she's living life to the fullest, she's started back in the kitchen. Mofongo is a dish made of fried plantains, hence the title. Families gather together to prepare the meal, as well as enjoy their labor while eating. In the back of the book, there are even some great recipes that I want to try.

There were tears, and there was laughter and I enjoyed every moment of it. Almost every emotional situation that Cecilia writes, can be related to your own personal life. This makes it very easy to relate to the story along with the characters. You can feel their emotions much easier and much more powerful.

It's an easy to read book that I believe everyone will enjoy. Samartin really knows how to tell a heartwarming story that will stick with you even after you finish the book.

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### **Kristen says**

I am inexplicably moved by Cecilia Samartin as she has done it again with an amazing piece of artwork such as this. This tale intertwines deep family ties with heart wrenching truths and the strength to endure and face it all no matter what it takes, even if it means risking it all.

"Mofongo" truly reveals true mastery in the art of connecting with the author's readers. Samartin tugs on your heart strings as well as your hunger expressing a collective desire to soothe the soul. The story involves many fictional characters and situations to which you can apply to your own life in very interchangeable ways. Many of the situations she creates within this book have deeper meanings within them which allows you to even look internally to your own faults, and how to cope, change, and make better, and most importantly, to heal yourself; as you read about these others doing the same.

Also, Samartin has a fascinating insight on the culture, life, and movement of Puerto Rico and Cuba I have seen collectively through her books I have read thus far. She portrays it so beautifully that I feel a nostalgia as if I have travelled there myself. Amazing. The foods described throughout this entire book individually made my belly rumble and mouth water, and I have a crazy desire to make a family meal where everyone participates. I have fallen in love with this author's ability to move me toward an interest and passion for things I never knew I had!

If you are bored with your life, or find it hard to cope with the things you can't change, please find time to

pick up this book, and go on a journey through the minds of many participators experiencing the same. It will do your soul a world of good.

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### **Noelia says**

Empecé este libro con muchas dudas respecto si iba a gustarme, entretenerme, etc... Qué equivocada estaba!!! En menos de una semana estaba cocluido, no podía parar de leerlo, y eso que no es en absoluto una novela de misterio.

Los personajes excelentemente delineados, tal vez algunos caen en estereotipos, pero nada grave.

Los protagonistas (la abuela lola y su nieto sebastian) totalmente entrañables, tanto cada personaje en sí como la relación entre ambos.

La única advertencia: uno se queda con mucha hambre!!! Lo bueno: viene con recetas al final.

Absolutamente recomendable!

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### **Charlene M Rodriguez says**

#### **Great book**

The story kept me captivated. It did not end as I thought. It was intriguing, sad, happy and motivating. A great read.

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### **Caisanne Lund says**

En hjerteskjærende historie om en gutt med en hjertefeil og store drømmer.

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### **Ghiomara Beov says**

Muy fácil de leer, lo termine en lauda y vuelta de un viaje.

Fantasioso siiiii mucho pero entretenido

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### **Natasja says**

Over dit boek heb ik echt even een nachtje moeten slapen wat voor punt ik dit zou gaan geven,het was of 4 of 5.Ik had voor mij gevoel nog wat onbeantwoorde vragen maar die neem ik maar op de koop toe,want ik ging vanmorgen werken en moest eerst even het verhaal over het boek kwijt en dat wil wel zeggen dat het mij erg aan heeft gegrepen.Er komen Stiekem toch veel onderwerpen voorbij vliegen zoals pesten ,het huwelijk,familie ruzie dat ik niet anders kan zeggen dan dat dit boek geweldig was. Mooie leuke en lieve karakters,dus ik zou zeggen lezen dit boek.

