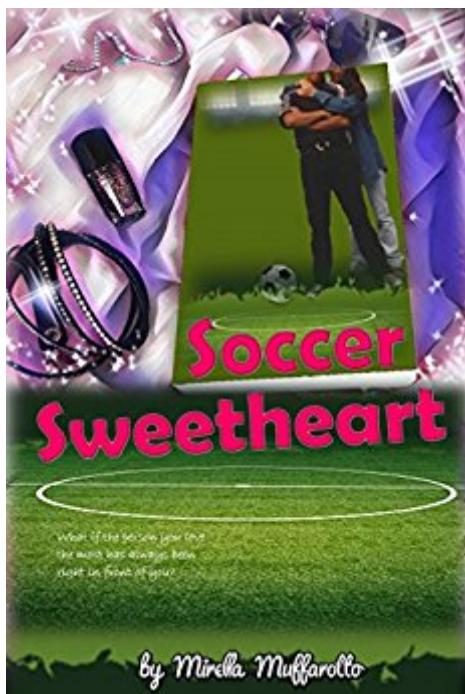


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# Soccer Sweetheart (The Rook CafÃ© Book 1)



## Synopsis

Previously published as The Rook Crew, this freshly updated edition is full of romance, laugh-out-loud scenes and swoon-worthy moments. She's a tomboy. He's her popular hot best friend. An addictive YA about true love, friendship and the pain of growing up. "I tried to hate you, to forgive you, all just to forget you, but I'm only capable of loving you. You're tattooed onto my skin, and the more I try to erase you, the deeper you sink in." It's a lovely early summer night, the kind of night where nothing could possibly go wrong, just perfect for anything, absolutely perfect for her seventeenth birthday party. Marika has invited her entire circle of friends over. The Rook crew, named for The Rook CafÃ© where they get together. She can't think of anything better than all of them together, just hanging out and doing nothing. Everyone is there including Matteo, Matteo Zovigo: ash brown hair, worn like he just got out of bed, and intense sky-blue eyes. They have known each other since childhood, and have been best friends for almost as long. But while he's a gorgeous, athletic, popular guy with a smile that makes your mind go blank and your mouth go dry, she is just like so many other girls her age: uncomfortable about her looks and her weight - neither super-skinny nor blonde like the cheerleader types - and certain that Matteo is out of her league. They have grown up with very few cares in the world in the midst of vineyards in the rolling Berici Hills, rocked gently by the rhythms of school and friends. But hundreds of miles away in the big city, in an elegant old building downtown, their destiny is about to be changed from behind a luxurious mahogany desk. Matteo's departure for Milan to follow his dreams will throw everything off balance, thrusting new, tempting situations into their lives: unexplored worlds of pro sport and its opportunities and sacrifices, contracts and huge paychecks, symphonic metal, emotions, teenage trials and tribulations, awkward relationships, and memories as cutting as a sword slicing through tofu. When another guy fills that emptiness in Marika's life, every move, every thought, every feeling gets amplified and everything gets more complicated, and more intense. [Teen & Young Adult](#) > [Contemporary](#) > [Sports Romance](#)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I loved everything about this story. It hooked me from the beginning, and I couldn't help but read and smile, swoon and sigh over it :) Seriously, I can't stop thinking about it. I really liked Marika's character because she is so normal, perfectly imperfect, and relatable. Besides, this book boyfriend is totally swoonworthy!! It's kind of hard not to have a crush on him. I love him no matter what, whether he's stubborn, impulsive or passionate, I simply love him. The connection between Marika and Matteo is undeniable, even when they are not together. They belong with each other! The love triangle is perfect, and by perfect, I actually mean that it could drive you crazy. Both of these guys are absolutely awesome. I found myself silently rooting for one while loving the other. But the way Matt loves Marika is one of those things that makes me love him more. The ending was perfect! Perfect as in an excellent balance of "HEA" and "OMG, tell me more!". No cliffhanger, no agony, but it left me hungry for more... I really want the SEQUEL, just so I can continue with this addictive story. I can't wait to read the next book in this series. Definitely a must-read!

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