



## Fueled Up for Love

*Fuel's* protagonist is a man named Timothy Malcolm Smith, a rising figure in the world of advertising. On a roll from his sixth consecutive business win, he receives a job offer from Oddinary, a famous agency housed in New York. But Timmy, as he is better known in the novel, has another motivation for traveling to New York, and that is to win the New York Marathon on his first attempt. A tall order made even harder by his newfound love for his Junior Art Partner, Cambria Sarah Lane.



The relationship between Timmy and Cambria developed gently and unhurriedly over the pages. Chin is really adept at getting readers invested in these two characters. I can't remember the last time I rooted for a fictional pair so hard, and found myself wanting to keep reading to find out what happens to them. And because their doubts, thoughts, exhilaration and concerns are so brilliantly described, it makes up for the somewhat unrealistic trait of each character being so amazingly talented in at least three of these things: career, running, cooking and painting. Their humanness show that they are flawed beings at the core, and they are in love with each other.

The plot unfolds in an easygoing pace, perfect for light reading while waiting for that flight or relaxing at a coffee chain. Jeremy has obviously done his research, peppering the novel with fun bits of trivia on long-distance running, classic European literature and high heels.

This debut novel is like a breath of fresh air. His writing style is lyrical yet poignant. It left me wanting more from Chin, and I sure hope this book won't be his last.



*Jeremy Chin has worked in design, web programming and animation in the US, UK and Malaysia for 10 years before deciding to take a year off to write "Fuel". His goal is to put Malaysia on the map as a country capable of producing great literary work.*

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