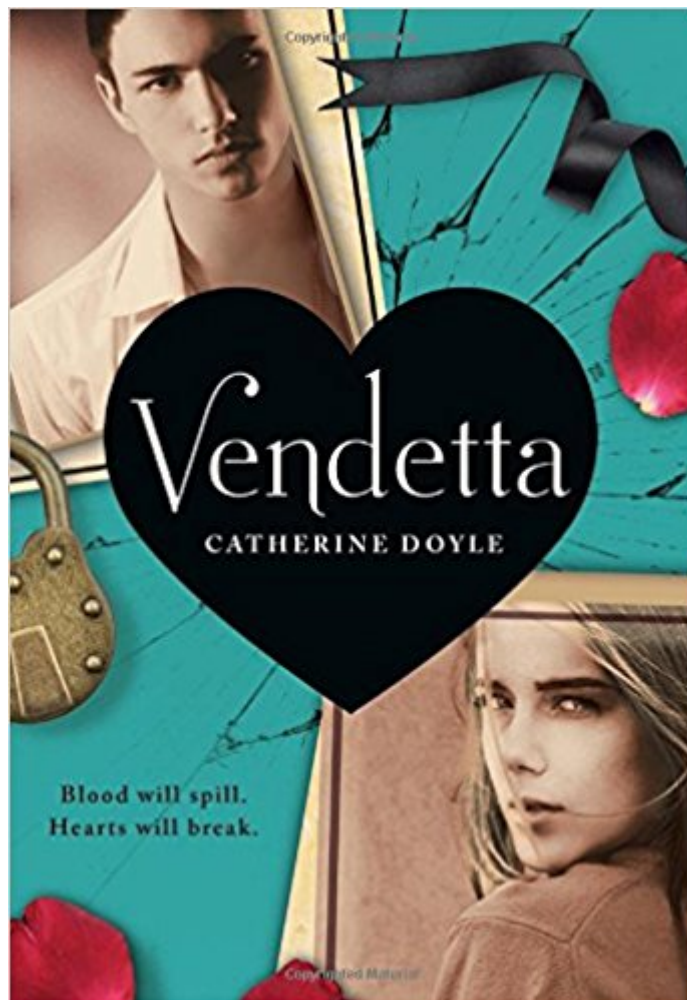


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# Vendetta



## Synopsis

**Blood Will Spill, Hearts Will Break:** With a fierce rivalry raging between two warring families, falling in love is the deadliest thing Sophie could do. An epic debut set outside modern-day Chicago. For Sophie, it feels like another slow, hot summer in Cedar Hill, waitressing at her family's diner and hanging out with her best friend Millie. But then someone moves into the long-abandoned mansion up the block--a family of five Italian brothers, each one hotter than the last. Unable to resist caramel-eyed Nicoli, Sophie finds herself falling for him -- and willfully ignoring the warning signs. Why are Nic's knuckles cut and bruised? Why does he carry an engraved switchblade? And why does his arrogant and infuriating older brother, Luca, refuse to let her see him? As the boys' dark secrets begin to come to light, Sophie is confronted with stinging truths about her own family, too. Suddenly, she's torn between two warring dynasties: the one she's related to and the one she's now in love with. She'll have to choose between loyalty and passione. When she does, blood will spill, hearts will break. Because in this twisted underworld, dishonor can be the difference between life and death.

## Book Information

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Adventure > Mystery & Thriller

## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up "Since her father's murder trial, Sophie Gracewell has become a social pariah. Instead of attending parties and spending time with friends, she works at her father's diner with her only remaining friend, Millie. Currently managed by her mysterious uncle, the diner will pass to Sophie when she turns 18. Reluctantly resigned to her fate, Sophie's world suddenly gets shaken up by the

mysterious arrival of a jar of honey left at the diner by gangster known as "The Sting." Also, an immediate attraction develops between Sophie and Nicoli Falcone, one of the five brothers in a new family that moved in to a long abandoned neighborhood mansion. However, their relationship is initially complicated by his overbearing brothers and then later prohibited once the link between the Falcones and Gracewells is discovered. The protagonist must reconcile her affection for Nic with the violent role he plays in his family's business, while also accepting the truth of her father's incarceration and the reasons for her uncle's sudden disappearance. The attraction between the teens is not as compelling as the action-filled mystery surrounding the Falcone family. Readers will be drawn in by the star-crossed romance and the compelling plot. For collections that can't keep enough teen romances on the shelf.â

â Lynn Rashid, Marriotts Ridge High School, Marriottsville, MD

Praise for Vendetta: "With its families at war and star-crossed lovers caught in the middle, Doyle's YA debut reads like a modern twist on Romeo and Juliet by way of The Sopranos." --Publishers Weekly "Readers will most certainly swoon over Sophie and Nic's ill-fated romance with its stolen kisses and gazes liberally slathered with angst-y longing." --Kirkus Reviews "Doyle's confident writing and Sophie's snarky yet relatable voice help sell the more over-the-top elements of this first in a romantic-suspense trilogy." --Booklist "The conclusion to this story is an interesting twist . . . this book is highly readable. Sophie is a well-drawn, three-dimensional character, as are Luca and Nic." --VOYA Â

Just finished this contemporary YA, I seriously couldn't put it down. Outside modern-day Chicago, where we lay our scene, expect to be torn between Romeos and the Queen of the Underworld! Loved this book ã•Â

I think this turned out way different than I thought it was going to. When I heard it was like Romeo and Juliet I was like okay this should be bad but it wasn't it was interesting. It didn't end like I thought it would

A really great interpretation of two mob families. It also had a great romance aspect to it. I am really looking forward to the next two books.

I want the next book now! Since it's not available in a kindle edition, I have to wait for it to arrive in the mail. At least it has already been written, and the third book is being released soon. This story is

my new obsession. I've never been a big fan of mafia stories, but I love this one. When I read the description, I thought it was going to be more of a flirtation between Sophie and the five brothers. The story began humorously with funny interactions between Sophie and her best friend. When she met the first brother, it was in a cliché way involving both being caught spying on him and falling down. I very much enjoyed the creepy setting though. I did, however, expect the story to keep being predictably cliché. That is how it continued to be on the surface with the insta-love, or at least lust. There was barely a hint of something else developing, although I instantly hoped for it as soon the second brother was introduced. The author threw in a curve ball with the remaining three brothers by not adhering to physical perfection. They weren't all going to be vying for her after all. Valentino was particularly intriguing with his singular personality. I found him to be much more exciting than Nic, and I might have shipped him with Sophie if things had turned out differently. This author is very sneaky with how she set up this story. She presented it one way, and then she slowly and subtly started to undermine the cliché. I did a happy dance at the end when it was hinted that what I was hoping for might happen as the story continues. Boy did s\*\*\* get real before then. I wasn't expecting that much violence. I also wasn't expecting that shocking reveal. I appreciated that the author didn't make all the henchmen a bunch of goons. There was variation and complexity in their personalities, which made them more chilling. Sophie was so idealistic in comparison that I wanted to snap her out of it at one point. I imagine that she will have quite a character arc by the time this series ends. I can't wait to read more!

I adored this book! Vendetta is so different from many other YA books and was quite entertaining and refreshing to read! The plot is very original and unlike anything else I've heard about or read.

This was an impulse buy. Saw it in the store, knew nothing about the author, and picked it up just because I thought the story sounded interesting enough. I had buyers remorse directly afterwards. Did I really spend \$20 on a book without reading reviews or doing any research? The only thing that kept me from returning it was I felt general excitement at the prospect of reading this story. So I kept it and a month later I finally read it. Throughout this whole experience I realized that as much as I love blogging and being part of the online book community, sometimes it affects what books I buy. I don't go into the bookstore anymore just to browse around and make impulse purchases. Instead, I go in like a woman on a mission, grabbing the things on my list. I rely on a few trusted bloggers to color my opinions of certain books and I'm beginning to wonder if maybe I should take a break from reading other reviews. In part, I have Catherine Doyle and

ÀœVendetta, to thank for opening my eyes to the fact that it's still okay to browse, and that's how you sometimes find real gems. Enough about that though: on to the review! What I liked: This book is full of positives. I mean really, really full of them. So full of them, I finished it in the span of two nights during my last week of finals teaching/tutoring. The story completely enraptured me from the first page. Doyle begins with a mystery and ends just as mysteriously. From the moment I opened the book she had me hooked as I was curious to know why our main character Sophie (or Persephone which is her much hated birth name) father is in prison. She seems like a normal enough girl, too normal to have a dad behind bars, and so I waited and waited for the mystery to be solved. When that was solved, another sprung into it's place. Who were the mysterious and seriously hot boys who moved into town? These mysterious became interwoven, interlaced, and entangled, until I thought I would go crazy with anticipation if I didn't uncover them soon. I'm a mystery lover and when it is done correctly it makes for a wonderful read. Catherine Doyle knows how to write a mystery. My second praise for this book was in the romance between Nic and Sophie. There weren't a ton of scenes where the two interacted and somehow their relationship was not the central focus of the books, yet I was totally captured by their intensity. Nic is my perfect book boyfriend. Little bit of danger, little bit of the good guy, and lots of protective instinct. He can rescue me from the clutches of evil overlords any day of the week. The passion between Sophie and Nic is subtle but intense. Doyle spends a lot of time building little moments between the two into big moments. What I didn't like: Wasn't crazy about the ending. I have so many questions and it just kind of cuts. I needed more. My biggest contention was that no one called the mafia thing from day one. Let's get out our mafia check list and see if these boys fit. Italian (Check) Super Intense/Kind of Dangerous (Check) Carry knives (Check) Know how to break and enter (Check) Live in a Big Creepy Mansion (Check) DING DING we have winners. Come on town of Cedar Hill, get it together. Overall, I really enjoyed this book and I'm so glad I trusted my instincts. It was a stellar read with a very intense plot. 4/5 For More Reviews check out [...]

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