

# Crown Media



THE WORLDWIDE LEADER IN *Celebrations*

## **'JUST ADD ROMANCE'** **Synopsis**

Meeting in a New York culinary school, Carly (Meghann Fahy) and Jason (Luke Macfarlane) had instant chemistry, exchanging playful banter and lighthearted competitiveness, all while proving they had the skills to be excellent future chefs. Carly was pretty sure their relationship might extend outside the classroom until one day, Jason didn't show up and never returned. But three years later fate brought them together again. Jason had abruptly moved to Chicago to run his father's diner because his dad had broken his arm, and Carly had accepted the head chef position at one of Chicago's most fashionable eateries. But it wasn't until they both won the chance to be one of six contestants on the popular cooking show "Kitchen Showdown," where promising chefs vie for the prize of owning their own restaurant.

Overcoming one cooking challenge after another, Carly and Jason not only defeat the other four contestants to become the remaining two finalists, but also learn that while they might have different cooking techniques – she's more focused on creativity and he's all about an organized kitchen – they still have a great deal in common. Both have cooking in their genes as Carly's father is a well-known celebrity chef and Jason's father owned a successful diner for 35 years. Both are driven to make their fathers proud, and both have always fantasized about opening their own restaurants. Now, with their restaurateur dreams about to collide in the final showdown, the network brings back the four contestants who already lost to serve as sous chefs for Carly and Jason as they vie to be the last chef standing.

But while it was clear from the first day of filming that the competition was quite heated, it was also obvious to everyone on the set – from contestants and judges to network executives and camera operators – that a romance between Jason and Carly was also aflame. Caught on film a number of times in a heartfelt gaze and even in a gentle kiss, the two budding lovebirds couldn't help but throw themselves into trying to win, all while they still hoped for the best for each other. And when it came down to the final show, and each was asked to make their best dish, even their sous chefs became extremely invested in victory.

Trying to decide on a dish that reflects their passion for cooking as well as their expertise, Carly and Jason wish each other luck, and while Carly hasn't decided on her dish, Jason reveals he's making Chicken Cordon Bleu. Speaking from her heart, Carly tells him to trust his talent and be bold, and off they go. But later, their sous chefs discover Jason is making a truffle sauce, and when Carly finds out, she thinks Jason has deliberately switched dishes and is copying her. With time running out to finish their dishes and get them plated for the judges, a lot more than Jason's lobster ravioli and Carly's shrimp risotto are at stake. With emotions boiling over, it's not going to be easy to continue their relationship when there's only one restaurant to win.

-- HALLMARK CHANNEL --