



BOOK RESUME: HOW IT ALL BLEW UP

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Eighteen-year-old Amir Azadi always knew coming out to his Muslim family would be messy—he just didn't think it would end in an airport interrogation room. But when faced with a failed relationship, bullies, and blackmail, running away to Rome is his only option. Right?

Soon, late nights with new friends and dates in the Sistine Chapel start to feel like second nature... until his old life comes knocking on his door. Now, Amir has to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth to a US Customs officer, or risk losing his hard-won freedom.

Title: How it All Blew Up
Author: Arvin Ahmadi
Imprint: Viking Books for Young Readers
Publisher: Penguin Young Readers
On sale date: September 22, 2020
ISBN: 9780593202890
Format: Paperback
Age Range*: 14 and up
Grade Range: Gr 9 Up
(Recommended by School Library Journal)

At turns uplifting and devastating, *How It All Blew Up* is Arvin Ahmadi's most powerful novel yet, a celebration of how life's most painful moments can live alongside the riotous, life-changing joys of discovering who you are.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★“A funny and propulsive read, nuanced and full of heart.”—*School Library Journal*, starred review

“Ahmadi's writing is gripping, taking readers through the myriad emotions a gay Muslim teen experiences growing up in a country whose government is looking for an excuse to demonize Muslims.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

“[A] moving and well-written coming-of-age novel.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“A fully realized, deeply sympathetic character.... The result is compelling.”—*Booklist*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- A Illinois Lincoln Book Award selection
- A Missouri Gateway Readers Book Award selection
- A New Hampshire Flume Book Award selection
- A 2021-2022 National Education Association Read Across America selection
- A YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers List selection

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [TIME Magazine: I'm a Muslim Iranian-American with a Sept 11 Birthday. Here's How I've Come to Terms with My Identity](#)
- [National Education Association Read Across America Resources](#)

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Penguin Random House

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*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.