



***If You Could Be Mine* by Sara Farizan**

Algonquin Young Readers, Hachette Book Group, 2014

ISBN: TP 9781616204556

*Age Range: Ages 14-18

Grade Range: Grade 9 and up

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Seventeen-year-old Sahar has been in love with her best friend, Nasrin, since they were six. They've shared stolen kisses and romantic promises. But Iran is a dangerous place for two girls in love--Sahar and Nasrin could be beaten, imprisoned, even executed. So they carry on in secret until Nasrin's parents suddenly announce that they've arranged for her marriage. Then Sahar discovers what seems like the perfect solution: homosexuality may be a crime, but to be a man trapped in a woman's body is seen as nature's mistake, and sex reassignment is legal and accessible. Sahar will never be able to love Nasrin in the body she wants to be loved in without risking their lives, but is saving their love worth sacrificing her true self?

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

- Winner of the Lambda Literary Award for LGBT Children's/Young Adult
- One of Rolling Stone's 40 Best YA Novels
- A 2014 ALA Rainbow List Top 10 Title
- A Booklist Top 10 First Novels for Youth 2013
- A Chicago Public Library "Best of the Best" 2013
- Association of Illinois School Library Educators' Abraham Lincoln Award

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

"Accomplished and compassionate . . . A groundbreaking, powerful depiction of gay and transsexual life in Iran . . . An intimate look at life in modern-day Iran and its surprising Westernization, even though much of this culture is clandestine." —***Booklist*, starred review**

"[A] provocative coming-of-age story . . . Throughout this strong debut, Farizan weaves in details of daily Iranian life . . . Within a rigid societal structure, her fleshed-out characters wrestle with depression, hope, complacency, and risk." —***Publishers Weekly***

"[A] terrific debut novel . . . Rich with details of life in contemporary Iran, this is a GLBTQ story that we haven't seen before in YA fiction. Highly recommended." —***School Library Journal***

"Sharp and moving . . . An interesting look at gender identity and gay culture in Iran . . . Also a compelling story about class and the purpose of marriage." —***The Boston Globe***

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“This beautifully crafted young-adult novel offers timely insight into the struggles of those who must be their authentic selves no matter where they live.” —*Ms. Magazine*

“Farizan’s prose is frank, funny and bittersweet, enjoyable . . . And her secondary storylines ring out memorably.” —*The New York Times Book Review*

“A convincing portrait of everyday life in post-revolutionary Iranian society . . . While Farizan deals with LGBT issues in this book, she also is writing about the choices all young adults must face. Sahar must find her place in her family, decide which career to follow, and figure out how to let go of a first love--universal themes in all cultures.” —*Durham Herald-Sun*

“A heartbreakingly beautiful story of first love . . . The reader becomes part of Sahar and Nasrin’s journey. We move through it with them with our heart in our hands.” —**National Book Award winner Jacqueline Woodson**

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Reader’s Guide](#)
- NPR: “[‘Be Mine’: Love and identity tangled in Tehran](#)”
- Mother Jones interview: “[This author’s juicy YA novels would be banned in her parents’ homeland](#)”
- Boston Globe: “[Love Unveiled: ‘If You Could Be Mine’ by Sara Farizan](#)”
- American Booksellers Association: “[Fall 2013 Indies introduce New Voices Q&A with Sara Farizan](#)”

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

- ACLU, Texas Civil Rights Project, etc. “[Letter to Keller Independent School District](#)”
- Houston Press: “[Opinion: Matt Krause’s Bad Books List another sign of the Texas dystopia?](#)”

AUTHOR STATEMENT (OPTIONAL)

[Author Essay](#)

***A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that 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 age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.