



***Tell Me Again How a Crush Should Feel* by Sara Farizan**

Algonquin Young Readers, Hachette Book Group, 2013

ISBN: TP 9781616205492

*Age Range: Ages 14-18

Grade Range: Grade 9 and up

BOOK SYNOPSIS

At Armstead Academy, everyone knows everything about everyone. Well, everyone thinks they know everything . . .

Leila has made it most of the way through Armstead Academy without having a crush on anyone, which is a relief. As an Iranian American, she's different enough; if word got out that Leila liked girls, life would be twice as hard. But when beautiful new girl Saskia shows up, Leila starts to take risks she never thought she would. As she carefully confides in trusted friends about Saskia's confusing signals, Leila begins to figure out that all her classmates are more complicated than they first appear to be, and some are keeping surprising secrets of their own.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"Deftly balancing Leila's unique cultural background and experience with more universal coming-of-age struggles, Farizan fashions an empowering romance featuring a lovable, awkward protagonist who just needs a little nudge of confidence to totally claim her multifaceted identity." —***Booklist*, starred review**

"Farizan exceeds the high expectations she set with her debut, *If You Could Be Mine*, in this fresh, humorous, and poignant exploration of friendship and love, a welcome addition to the coming-out/coming-of-age genre." —***Publishers Weekly*, starred review**

"A warm and uplifting coming-out story . . . An appealing cast of well-drawn characters—Christina, a vampire-obsessed theater tech-crew member, Tomas, the gay director and taskmaster of the middle school play she helps with, and Tess, a refreshingly confident nerdy girl—makes the story shine. Lessons abound . . . but skilful character development keeps Leila's discoveries from ever feeling didactic. Funny, heartwarming and wise." —***Kirkus Reviews***

"With a plot that unfolds naturally, good writing, and vivid character development that leaves readers alternately cringing and aching for the protagonist, teens will find a satisfying coming-of-age novel. Fragments of Persian culture are incorporated smoothly within the narrative. Books featuring gay and lesbian teens of Middle Eastern descent are rare, and this engaging high school drama fills that need. Leila's coming out to her friends and family, and her fear of disappointing her parents will resonate with all young adults." —***School Library Journal***

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Hachette Book Group

laura.lutz@hbgusa.com

“Sara Farizan is just the voice YA needs right now.” —#1 New York Times bestselling author Sarah Dessen

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- ALA Top Ten Rainbow List title 2015
- YALSA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers title 2015
- Capitol Choices 2015 reading list
- Cooperative Children’s Book Center (CCBC), 2015 list

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Readers Guide](#)
- Mother Jones interview: “[This author’s juicy YA novels would be banned in her parents’ homeland](#)”
- “[PW talks with Sara Farizan](#)”
- BuzzFeed: “[Sara Farizan is your new favorite queer YA novelist](#)”
- Diversity in YA: [Interview with Sara Farizan](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

- Houston Press: “[Opinion: Matt Krause’s Bad Books List another sign of the Texas dystopia?](#)”
- Book Riot: “[Over 100 books have been challenged in Eanes, Texas, since March 20](#)”

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.