



Title: Darius the Great Deserves Better

Author: Adib Khorram

Imprint: Dial Books

Publisher: Penguin Young Readers

On sale date: August 25, 2020

ISBN: 9780593108239 and 9780593108253

Format: Hardcover and Paperback

Age Range*: 12 and up

Grade Range: Gr 8 Up

(Recommended by School Library Journal)

BOOK RESUME: DARIUS THE GREAT DESERVES BETTER

BOOK SYNOPSIS

In this companion to the award-winning *Darius the Great Is Not Okay*, Darius suddenly has it all: a boyfriend, an internship, a spot on the soccer team. It's everything he's ever wanted—but what if he deserves better?

Darius Kellner is having a bit of a year. Since his trip to Iran, a lot has changed. He's getting along with his dad, and his best friend Sohrab is only a Skype call away. Between his first boyfriend, Landon, varsity soccer practices, and an internship at his favorite tea shop, things are falling into place.

Then, of course, everything changes. Darius's grandmothers are in town for a long visit, and Darius can't tell whether they even like him. The internship is not going according to plan, Sohrab isn't answering Darius's calls, and Dad is far away on business. And Darius is sure he really likes Landon . . . but he's also been hanging out with Chip Cusumano, former bully and current soccer teammate—and well, maybe he's not so sure about anything after all.

Darius was just starting to feel okay, like he finally knew what it meant to be Darius Kellner. But maybe okay isn't good enough. Maybe Darius deserves better.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★“This coming-of-age masterpiece packs a multitude of truth and heart. . . . A sequel that gets better and better the longer it steep.” —*Kirkus*, starred review

★“Khorram again presents an artful tapestry of sci-fi fandom, Persian culture, soccer, racism, sexuality, depression, family crises, a love triangle, and endless amounts of global teas in Darius's compelling story. . . . This is a seamless and profound YA novel with a memorable and endearing main character.”
—*School Library Journal*, starred review

★“Delightful.” —*Booklist*, starred review

“Through intimate, conversational narration, Khorram provides moments of levity . . . as well as insight into insecurities. . . . and leaves readers curious and hopeful about where his journey will take him next.” —*The Horn Book*

Updated 3.26.2024

Penguin Random House

Contact BannedBooks@penguinrandomhouse.com

*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.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- A Stonewall Honor Book Award
- An ALA Rainbow List selection
- A YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults Selection
- A Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices selection
- A *Kirkus Reviews* Best Book of the Year selection

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [NPR in Kansas City KCUR: A Kansas City YA author worries what kids lose when books—like his own—get banned](#)
- [NBC News: While some banned queer books see a bump, others quietly disappear](#)
- [Human Rights Campaign Welcoming Schools: Preventing Bias-Based Bullying for Secondary Schools](#)

Updated 3.26.2024

Penguin Random House

Contact BannedBooks@penguinrandomhouse.com

*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.