



BOOK RESUME: DARIUS THE GREAT IS NOT OKAY

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Darius Kellner speaks better Klingon than Farsi, and he knows more about Hobbit social cues than Persian ones. He's a Fractional Persian—half, his mom's side—and his first-ever trip to Iran is about to change his life.

Darius has never really fit in at home, and he's sure things are going to be the same in Iran. His clinical depression doesn't exactly help matters, and trying to explain his medication to his grandparents only makes things harder. Then Darius meets Sohrab, the boy next door, and everything changes. Soon, they're spending their days together, playing soccer, eating faludeh, and talking for hours on a secret rooftop overlooking the city's skyline. Sohrab calls him Darioush—the original Persian version of his name—and Darius has never felt more like himself than he does now that he's Darioush to Sohrab.

Adib Khorram's brilliant debut is for anyone who's ever felt not good enough—then met a friend who makes them feel so much better than okay.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★“First-time author Khorram's coming-of-age novel brings to life the sight, sounds, smells, and tastes of [Iran] . . . as it shows how a boy who feels like an outcast at home finds himself and true friendship overseas.” —*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★“Khorram's debut novel is filled with insight into the lives of teens, weaving together the reality of living with mental illness while also dealing with identity and immigration politics. This tear-jerker will leave readers wanting to follow the next chapter in Darius's life.” —*Kirkus*, starred review

★“Darius is a well-crafted, awkward but endearing character, and his cross-cultural story will inspire reflection about identity and belonging. A strong choice for YA shelves. Give this to fans of Adam Silvera and John Corey Whaley.” —*School Library Journal*, starred review

“A refreshing bildungsroman and an admirable debut novel that will leave readers wanting more.” —*Booklist*

“This is an incredible story of friendship, family, and identity that you absolutely won't regret reading.” —*Buzzfeed*

Title: Darius the Great is Not Okay

Author: Adib Khorram

Imprint: Dial Books

Publisher: Penguin Young Readers

On sale date: August 28, 2018

ISBN: 9780525552963 and 9780525552970

Format: Hardcover and Paperback

Age Range*: 12 and up

Grade Range: Gr 8 Up

(Recommended by School Library Journal)

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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.

“Khorram’s debut novel is an affectionate portrait of Iran: the food and aromas, the rich traditions and eclectic culture. . . . Readers will understand that home can be more than the physical place you live, and that people who make you feel at home can come into your life unexpectedly.” —*The Horn Book*

“Layered with complexities of identity, body image and mental illness that are so rarely articulated in the voice of a teenage boy of color. Khorram writes tenderly and humorously about his protagonist’s journey of self-acceptance, making it hard not to want to reach through the pages, squeeze his hand and reassure Darius that he is, in fact, going to be O.K.” —*The New York Times*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- A William C. Morris Debut Award Medal Winner
- Winner of the APALA Award
- A Middle East Book Award Winner
- A Amelia Elizabeth Walde Award Finalist
- A Boston Globe-Horn Book Fiction and Poetry Honor Book
- A YALSA Teen Top 10 selection
- A YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults Top 10 Selection
- A Cooperative Children’s Book Center Choices List selection
- An ALA Rainbow List selection
- A Lambda Literary Award Finalist
- A Rhode Island Teen Book Award selection
- A Tennessee Volunteer State Book Award selection
- Texas TAYSHAS Reading List selection
- A New York Westchester Fiction Award selection
- A Oklahoma Sequoyah High School Book Award selection
- A Pennsylvania Young Reader’s Choice Award selection
- A Wisconsin Just One More Page selection
- A Arkansas Teen Book Award selection
- A New Jersey Garden State Teen Book Award selection
- A Illinois Lincoln Award selection
- A Oregon Reader’s Choice Award (ORCA) selection
- A Virginia Readers Choice Book Award selection

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Book Club Discussion Guide](#)
- [Educator Guide](#)
- [Complementing the Classics](#)
- [NPR in Kansas City KCUR: A Kansas City YA author worries what kids lose when books—like his own—get banned](#)
- [Adib Khorram on Writing Honestly About Mental Health, Love, and Iran](#)

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- [Lyndhurst High School Student Newspaper: 'Darius the Great is Not Okay' delivers hopeful message for those suffering from depression](#)
- [Human Rights Campaign Books Not Bans: LGBTQ+ Affirming Booklist for Middle School and High School](#)

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