

Written in the Stars

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Naila's parents are from Pakistan, but she was born in America. Naila's parents have always told her that she can choose what she wants to wear or what job she wants, but only they can choose her husband. What they don't know is that Naila has a boyfriend, his name is Saif, a boy from a family Naila's parents would never approve of. Naila's parents fly off the handle when they found out about her secret relationship. They then whisk her off to Pakistan to remind her of her true origins, but things take a turn for the worse when Naila is forced into a marriage with no way of escaping. Saif may be her only hope of freedom from her parents and the life they forced onto her.

Written in the Stars was the best book I have ever read. My emotions were so deeply rooted in the story that I couldn't help but crying at Naila's worst moments. I personally connected with this story because I come from a background similar to Naila's and knew very much about the expectations all parents forced onto their children. I could feel what Naila felt when she found out about her parents' true intentions, it was like the whole world had turned upside down.

The author sheds light on a very overlooked issue that affects many around the world. It was the saddest thing to read about and opened my eyes. This story made me think and grieve, for not only Naila, but for anyone who was forced into a life they never wanted.

For such a heartbreaking story, there are some things to watch out for, such as abuse, rape, and violence. These darker elements of the story further emphasize how much Naila suffered. This would not be the best book to read to younger children. I would recommend anyone 15 and up. And it may be best for you to check out the book before buying a copy, seeing as it is a very sad story.

Other Recommendations:

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

The Secret Sky by Atia Abawi

The Sun is also a Star by Nicola Yoon