

Title: *Hollow Fires*
Author: Samira Ahmed
Genre: Young Adult, Mystery

Reviewer's Name and Grade: Nitya M., 9th Grade

Date Reviewed: March 24, 2024

Hollow Fires is a young adult mystery book by Samira Ahmed. The story follows a girl in high school whose name is Safiya Mirza. The girl's dream after school is to become a journalist. Safiya lives a pretty normal highschooler life until she stumbles upon a 14-year-old boy named Jawad Ali. Jawad is a boy who has been recently targeted and bullied because of a school project he made which was thought to be a bomb and students make fun of him for being a "terrorist". They bully him racially in school. After a few days of this constant bullying and hatred Jawad goes missing and Safiya who is intrigued by this disappearance decides to investigate to find Jawad and maybe even write an article about what happened due to her aspiration of wanting to be a journalist. As she researches more about this topic she works with her own community and online to figure out more about this disappearance. The book moves along as Safiya investigates more about this topic and finds insights from Jawad himself and learns the experience Jawad went through when this happened. We see the isolation and fear that Jawad felt when all of this was going on. As Safiya is trying to do more research she is stopped by a web full of lies and hidden objectives. She is threatened by many people online for trying to see the truth about Jawad. As she conducts more and more research, she is horrified to figure out that Jawad has been pronounced dead. Although she is struck with sorrow about Jawad and what he endured she does not want to stop figuring out about the truth which ultimately leads her to something deep. *Hollow Fires* is not just a mystery book, it is also about stronger themes like racism and dangers of prejudice.

Did the plot keep me interested?

Yes, it kept me interested.

Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?

It was slow but not slow enough to bore the reader.

What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?

This book is appropriate for grade levels 7 and up because it does have some strong themes such as racism.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I will recommend this to a mystery lover because it is great telling a mystery story.

What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?

Don't stop reading this book, the end is worth it.

Rating: I will give the book 5 stars because I love mystery books and this one is great.