

**Title:** *The Henna Wars*

**Author:** Adiba Jaigirdar

**Perspectives Category:** LGBTQIA+

**Reviewer Name and Grade:** Tatjana T., Grade 11

**Date Reviewed:** April 10, 2023

1. The main plot of "The Henna Wars" by Adiba Jaigirdar follows Nishat, a Bangladeshi lesbian teenager living in Ireland, who navigates her identity, her culture, and her budding romance with her childhood crush, Flávia, who happens to be her competition in a school henna business project.
2. I most identify with Nishat because, like her, I also struggle with issues of identity, cultural expectations, and navigating my sexual orientation(as well as the common experience of falling for a best friend). I can relate to her challenges of reconciling her Bangladeshi heritage with her LGBTQ+ identity and the complexities of her romantic feelings for Flávia.
3. The main message of this book is about acceptance, self-identity, and the challenges faced by LGBTQ+ individuals in conservative cultural and societal settings. It highlights the importance of embracing one's true identity and fighting against discrimination and prejudice, while also exploring themes of family, friendship, and first love.
4. I believe that the main message of this book was effectively integrated into the story, without coming off as preachy. The author portrays Nishat's struggles and experiences in a relatable and authentic manner, showing the internal conflicts she faces as she grapples with her identity and societal expectations, while also addressing issues of cultural appropriation and discrimination.
5. In "The Henna Wars," the perspectives of Nishat and Flávia are explored, both representing different experiences and challenges as LGBTQ+ individuals from different cultural backgrounds. I agree with Nishat's perspective of being true to oneself and fighting against discrimination, as well as Flávia's perspective of learning and growing from mistakes, and acknowledging privilege.
6. Reading this book reaffirmed my beliefs about the importance of self-acceptance, LGBTQ+ rights, and advocating for inclusivity and diversity. It also shed light on the challenges faced by LGBTQ+ individuals from conservative cultural backgrounds and the importance of intersectionality in addressing social issues.
7. While the book provides a diverse and nuanced perspective on Nishat's struggles as a Bangladeshi lesbian teenager, it could benefit from including more perspectives from other

marginalized groups within the LGBTQ+ community, such as individuals from different racial, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds.

8. Yes, this book encouraged me to pursue further reading and research on topics such as LGBTQ+ rights, intersectionality, cultural appropriation, and diversity. It also inspired me to take action in advocating for inclusivity and acceptance in my own community and beyond.

9. I would suggest this book to teenage readers who are interested in LGBTQ+ literature, coming-of-age stories, and themes of self-acceptance, cultural identity, and romance. It may also resonate with readers who are navigating their own identity and struggling with societal expectations and discrimination.

10. Another book that would make a good addition to this category of perspectives biography is "Juliet Takes a Breath" by Gabby Rivera, which also explores the journey of a queer teenager of color as she navigates her identity, family, and societal expectations. It delves into similar themes of self-acceptance, intersectionality, and social activism, providing a diverse perspective on the LGBTQ+ experience.