

Title: *All My Rage*

Author: Sabaa Tahir

Genre: Young adult fiction

Reviewer Name and Grade: Shrey G., Grade 9

Date Reviewed: 03/15/2024

All My Rage is a coming-of-age story that delves into the lives of two Pakistani American families, the Chodhries and the Razaas, spanning continents and generations. The narrative unfolds through alternating perspectives, weaving together past and present.

The story starts in Lahore, Pakistan, with Misbah, a young woman with a vibrant spirit and a love for storytelling. She enters into an arranged marriage with Toufiq, hoping for a fulfilling life. However, their happiness is disrupted by a life-altering event, forcing them to make a difficult decision: immigrate to the United States and start anew. Years later, in the small Californian town of Juniper, we meet their children, Salahuddin (Sal) and Noor. Sal, a thoughtful young man, grapples with a troubled past and a simmering anger. Noor, fiercely independent and loyal, finds solace in music and her close friendship with Sal.

Juniper, their new home, presents its own challenges. The town harbors unspoken tensions and racial prejudice, making it difficult for the Pakistani American family to feel like they truly belong. Sal and Noor, navigating the complexities of adolescence in this environment, find solace in their bond. As the story progresses, a past event casts a long shadow over the present. Through flashbacks and revelations, the interconnected histories of the Chodhries and Razaas unfold. We learn about the buried traumas that continue to shape their lives and the choices that led them to this point.

The novel explores the powerful themes of family, forgiveness, and the enduring strength of friendship. It delves into the complexities of grief and the search for belonging, particularly for those who feel like outsiders. Sal and Noor, each grappling with their own struggles, learn to rely on each other and find ways to mend the hurts of the past.

Did the plot (for fiction) or presentation of information (for nonfiction) keep you interested?

It did not keep me interested but one good thing about the plot was that it switches perspectives between characters and timelines, which can be a helpful way to keep the story fresh.

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

The pacing is on the slower side. It delves deep into the characters' thoughts and emotions, and some readers might prefer a faster-moving plot.

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

This book is appropriate for grades 8 and up because this book deals with mature themes and some violence.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

Anyone who appreciates a deep dive into the characters' motivations and struggles.

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

This book covers some serious topics, there's some swearing and mentions of drugs/alcohol.

It's a deeper read, but if you're looking for a story that makes you think and feel, this is a good pick.

I would rate this book *3 stars* because *All My Rage* is a well-written book with complex characters and important themes. The way it weaves together the past and present, and explores the characters' inner struggles, is really well done. However, the slower pace and focus on emotions is not for me. If you're looking for a fast-paced plot with a lot of action, this might not be the best choice.

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

Date Reviewed: March 16, 2024

The book *All My Rage* by Sabaa Tahir is a young literature novel that focuses on the broken bond of two Pakistani- American teenagers whose names are Salahudin and Noor, the story is set in the town of Juniper, California. Their deep friendship starts to fall apart after a mysterious incident called "The Fight ". The story after

this event turns into a situation that deals with the two friends' pasts before this occurrence. The book shows the pasts of the characters, it shows what they kept from each other while they were friends and even the problems that they were facing that they did not tell each other. The problem that Sal, short for Salahudin, faced was the situation with his mother and how she was ill. Another problem that Sal faced was his family business, which was a motel; it was starting to die down and the income was very low and not enough for the whole family. The problem Noor faced was that her own family was very controlling of her. The book then develops into a flashback and shows the history of the past that led to events that are happening in the present in the book. We gain insight into Sal's mother's experience on immigration which gives a deeper understanding of how things are happening in the present. The story explains how Misbah married Sal's father and how a desperate situation made the two move to the U.S. After this we learn about Noor's past where her uncle is very controlling and destroys her hopes of going to college. Towards the end of the book Sal gets caught up selling drugs due to his desperate situation which ultimately lands him in jail, although Noor is involved in these crimes Sal pleads guilty and says Noor has not been involved in the illegal activities. In the end while Sal is incarcerated, he writes books and understands deeper meanings of life and starts to get his life together again while Noor's charges are dropped due to Sal's testimony and Noor goes to UCLA and starts her college journey. Though at first Noor is still angry with Sal she learns to forgive him and sends him notes to tell him that she is sorry and forgives Sal. The story does not end in a happy ending but rather ends with good events that could be beneficial to the future.

Did the plot keep me interested?

Not really during the beginning.

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

The pace was slow, but it started to speed up towards the middle and end.

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

I think this book is appropriate for grade levels 7 and up as it has some strong themes but is generally easy to read and can be read at a lower grade level.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend this book to an avid reader because it is not like other generic books with similar endings but rather a unique book with a nice ending and interesting story.

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

The book is great, and people should read it because it has a great story and message.

Rating: I will give it **4 stars** as it is a great book in my opinion.

Reviewer Name and Grade: Tess M., 8th Grade

Date Reviewed: 4/1/24

"All My Rage" by Sabaa Tahir is a compelling and emotionally resonant novel that delves deep into the complexities of trauma, resilience, and the pursuit of justice. Set in a small town in the United States, the story unfolds against the backdrop of a community grappling with its own prejudices and biases. The time period is contemporary, allowing the narrative to address relevant social issues with a sense of immediacy and relevance. Through the protagonist, Rania, the novel explores the aftermath of a traumatic event, shedding light on the impact of sexual assault, mental health, and the quest for healing and justice.

The plot of "All My Rage" is a gripping exploration of Rania's emotional journey as she grapples with the aftermath of the assault, seeking to be heard and understood in a community that often fails to provide the support and empathy she desperately needs. The pacing of the book is just right, allowing for a deep dive into

Rania's emotional turmoil, her quest for justice, and the impact of the assault on her relationships and sense of self. Tahir skillfully navigates the complexities of trauma and healing, drawing readers into Rania's world with empathy and insight. The plot is compelling and thought-provoking, keeping readers engaged as they witness Rania's resilience and strength in the face of adversity.

In terms of appropriateness, "All My Rage" is suitable for older teens and young adults, given its mature themes and sensitive exploration of trauma and its aftermath. The book is recommended for high school students and older readers who appreciate character-driven narratives and stories that tackle difficult subjects with empathy and depth. Readers who are drawn to emotionally resonant stories and narratives that address important social issues with authenticity and insight will find "All My Rage" to be a captivating and impactful read.

For teens, it's important to approach "All My Rage" with an understanding of the sensitive themes it addresses, particularly the portrayal of sexual assault and its aftermath. Tahir handles these themes with honesty and respect, offering a valuable perspective on the complexities of trauma, healing, and the pursuit of justice. It's a book that can prompt meaningful discussions about consent, empathy, and the impact of trauma, making it an important and relevant read for young adults.

Rating: 5 stars

"All My Rage" earns a solid 5-star rating for its exceptional storytelling, nuanced exploration of trauma, and the resilience of the human spirit. Sabaa Tahir's writing is both evocative and empathetic, drawing readers into Rania's emotional journey with grace and authenticity. This book is a must-read for anyone seeking a powerful and thought-provoking narrative that tackles important social issues with sensitivity and depth.

Reviewer name and grade: Kaileen C., Grade 8

Date reviewed: April 6, 2024

Sabaa Tahir's "All My Rage" is a really interesting young adult novel that revolves around the friendship between Rumi Seto and her childhood best friend, June Yamada. The story takes place in this small town in Wisconsin, where Rumi and June have grown up together, having a deep bond. However, their friendship is, in a way, tested when a tragic accident ends the lives of Rumi's sister and June's brother. As Rumi grapples with survivor's guilt and struggles to cope with her grief, tensions arise between her and June. The two friends find themselves on opposite sides of a painful rift, with misunderstandings and resentments threatening to break their relationship apart. As Rumi navigates the complexities of her emotions and tries to mend her injured friendship with June, she also faces judgment from their small community. Set against the backdrop of their small town and the aftermath of the accident, "All My Rage" contains themes of guilt, forgiveness, and the healing power of empathy.

Did the plot keep you interested?

Yes, the central conflict between Rumi and June kept me engaged throughout the book, as their strained friendship added layers of tension and emotional depth to the narrative. For instance, the buildup to their confrontation and the subsequent fallout kept me invested in their journey and eager to see how their relationship would unfold.

Was the pace of the book just right?

Yes, the pacing of the book felt smooth, with moments of introspection and emotional turmoil balanced by scenes of interpersonal drama and tension. Tahir effectively maintains the momentum of the plot, keeping me engaged from start to finish.

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

This book is suitable for high school students and above, I think those interested in contemporary young adult fiction with themes of friendship, grief, and conflict would like this book.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend this book to readers who enjoy character-driven stories with complex relationships and emotional depth. Fans of contemporary YA fiction exploring themes of friendship and forgiveness would probably appreciate this novel.

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

Teens should be aware that "All My Rage" contains themes of grief, guilt, and conflict, which may be triggering for some readers. Additionally, the book includes a bit of mature language and discussions of sensitive topics.

Rating: *4 stars*

Explanation:

I enjoyed "All My Rage" and found it to be a good read. The conflict between Rumi and June added depth to the plot, and Tahir's exploration of friendship and forgiveness was impactful. However, there were moments where the characters acted a bit outdated or cringy, though this might just be a personal issue. But overall, it's an unbelievably amazing novel.