

Yes No Maybe So

Becky Albertalli and Aisha Saeed

Reviewed by: Drishti Upadhyaya, 16

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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Becky Albertalli and Aisha Saeed manage to add romance to activism in their novel *Yes No Maybe So*. The novel follows the passionate but shy Jamie as he volunteers to help with his local election. Jamie dreams of being more involved someday, but he's terrified of public speaking. When he's partnered up with Maya, someone who initially could not care less about the election, he slowly learns to open up, and even fall in love.

While the "Muslim falls for a white man" storyline has been done to death in many problematic ways, the story's take on it is a lot more refreshing. Maya is still connected to her religion and heritage, and doesn't change herself for Jamie. Adding romance to politics can be a little messy, but Albertalli and Saeed handled it pretty well. The story isn't afraid to be political but doesn't use politics as a means for romance. The romance and politics are connected but separate, which is something that doesn't really happen in most political romances. I loved all of the characters so seeing their relationship develop was very fulfilling.

Yes No Maybe So is perfect for tweens and teens alike. It's a pretty light read, making it perfect to check out from your local library. It also makes a fantastic gift for anyone thinking of a future in politics or anyone who loves YA romance.

Recommended Titles:

Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed

Written in the Stars by Aisha Saeed

Simon vs the Homo Sapiens Agenda by Becky Albertalli

Leah on the Offbeat by Becky Albertalli