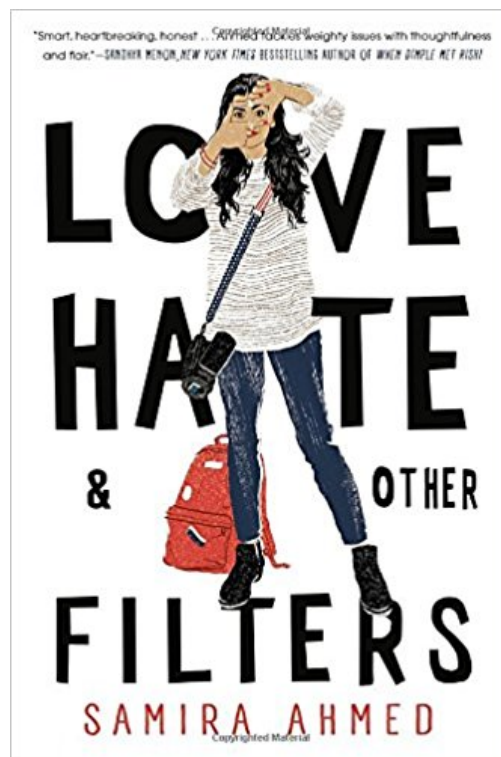


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**Review of *Love, Hate, and Other Filters*
By Samira Ahmed**

Adult/Educator Reviewer: Patty Young
Heart of Texas Writing Project, Austin, TX
Student Review: Arabella French, 7th Grade



Ahmed, S. (2018). *Love, hate, & other filters*. New York, NY: Soho Teen.

ISBN: 978-1616958473

Adult Review: Patty Young

Meeet Maya. A senior girl living with her traditional Muslim Indian parents in Batavia, Illinois. Maya dreams to pursue her interest in film at NYU, but her parents have other plans for her—study in Illinois and become a doctor or lawyer.

Despite her parents' wishes, Maya strikes the courage to stay on her path and is relentless in her pursuit to NYU. Just when it seems like things are about to pan out of this inquisitive character, tragedy strikes the state of Illinois and Maya must decide if she's able to chase her film director dreams, or if the preconceived notions of others will become a detriment to her future.

In a time in society where it feels like tragedy strikes our country every day, I think it is essential for students to see characters prevail through moments of hardship, struggle, and doubt. Maya teaches us to stay true to our own paths in life, yet sometimes lean on those in our communities, despite conflict. Woven through these brilliant pages of literature is a story that impacted my life and will forever leave a stamp on my heart and is something that can benefit students of all races, genders, faiths and beliefs, and socioeconomic statuses.

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There is some mention of sex throughout this piece of literature, so caution some readers of that.

Student Review: Arabella French

This book is a thoughtful look into the life of a Muslim-American teen growing up in an Islamophobic nation. Maya is an interesting combination of wit and heart, which makes a unique story when you put it inside of an modern sixteen-year-old girl dealing with family and societal pressures.

This story helped me understand a culture that I don't have any exposure to and gave me insight into how we can be similar and different at the same time. Maya and I are close in age yet our cultures ask very different things of us, some good and some difficult.

Maya is easy to connect with as the story evolves, her insecurities making her even more appealing. Every teenage girl is hesitant of themselves as they balance peer pressure with family expectations. The author keeps Maya's witty personality on display with her amusing self-talk while revealing her vulnerability as she tries to develop her own identity.

Samira Ahmed has made a book that is page-turning, I couldn't put it down! From the very beginning I was hooked; from Maya's melodramatic mother to the two very different boys she falls for, Ms. Ahmed has developed great characters. Romance fans will be thrilled with Maya's exciting love life and all readers

will get a glimpse into Muslim-American teen tensions.

“This story helped me understand a culture that I don’t have any exposure to and gave me insight into how we can be similar and different at the same time.”