

HOUSE OF YESTERDAY

by Deeba Zargarpur

Published in 2022

Rating (0 stars is the absolute worst, 10 stars is the BEST BOOK EVER)



Genre(s):



Contemporary/Realistic



Action/adventure



Science Fiction



Fantasy



Romance



Horror



Mystery



Nonfiction



Historical fiction



Other:

House of Yesterday, by Deeba Zargarpur, is a book about fifteen-year-old Sara, who is an Afghan-Uzbek-American teen. She has been raised on beautiful love stories of how her family built themselves up with love and dedication and care when they immigrated to America. However, she starts to doubt how perfect her family can be when her mother and father, Madar and Padar, start to split for real. To make matters worse, her beloved grandmother, Bibi Jan, is no longer the steady pillar she once was for Sara as her memory fades. Sara takes on a summer renovation project with her mother to distract herself from her tumultuous life, but soon finds the house has stories of its own to tell. As Sara is pulled farther and farther into the complicated past of the house and her family, she attempts to untangle the gnarled stories. However, without Bibi Jan's memory to help her, she is lost in the tide of ghosts.

I don't usually like stories with ghosts, because they usually feel cheap and shallow, but I was pleasantly surprised by House of Yesterday, even though ghosts played a big part of it. It was an engrossing read, with the kind of suspense that kept me turning the pages. The character and their various personalities feel realistic and relatable. Even though the plot could feel a little gloomy at times, the energy the characters brought to the book gave it an animated life. I really enjoyed reading about Sara's family and experiencing their interactions. Zargarpur did a great job building each specific character with personality and individuality, so that, by the end of the book, I really felt like I knew them. I think readers who enjoy reading books about family, friendship, secrets, and trust will connect with this book, which was a very touching read. House of Yesterday was a truly beautiful and moving book, and I will remember it.

By Lily C, 7th grade, enjoys reading mystery, fantasy, and historical fiction