

# HERE TO STAY

by Sara Farizan

Published in 2018

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



Genre(s):



Contemporary



Action/adventure



Science Fiction



Fantasy



Romance



Horror



Mystery



Nonfiction



Historical fiction



Other:

When Bijan, a junior year high school student of Middle eastern descent, gets chosen to play on his school's varsity team, he becomes the victim of anonymous racist cyber bullying. Bijan is determined to identify the cyberbully and stay on the varsity team, however, his life has become difficult because he has become distrustful of many of his friendships.

Bijan feels both ethnically insulted and personally betrayed by the cyber bullying. He vacillates between overtly ignoring the situation, or taking responsibility as the sole representative of his ethnic culture and directing a speech to the entire school. As he tries to negotiate his relationships, he befriends several girls, two of whom have become the most recent victims of cyber bullying due to their covert lesbian relationship.

The setting is current and local, Bijan lives in Davis Sq., Somerville, MA. The basketball aspect is simply a backdrop for the themes of stereotype, prejudice, trust, rivalry, friendship, and inclusivity. This was a fairly enjoyable quick read, which only superficially touched on the themes mentioned. I don't think I would recommend this book, because I didn't find it very engaging, however, I wouldn't dissuade anyone from reading it either. By taking on so many stereotypical prejudices in such a short story, the novel was unable to address the truly deep rooted effects that even short lived bullying can have on a teen.

By Jacob G, 8th grade, enjoys reading contemporary, mystery, historical fiction, and action/adventure